

# 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

HD-3-05.AMS

Larry Gigliotti

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks



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523 E. Capitol

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

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This report was produced for Game, Fish and Parks' wildlife staff and administrators to evaluate the 2004 Black Hills deer season from the perspective of deer hunters and to improve their understanding of Black Hills deer hunters. Recommendations made in this report are solely my opinion and are intended as suggestions for future discussion and consideration by GFP wildlife staff. Recommendations in this report do not necessarily reflect any final decisions by wildlife staff or GFP policy.

*Larry M. Gigliotti*  
Planning Coordinator / Human Dimensions Specialist

# **Executive Summary**

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

### **HD-3-04.AMS**

*Larry Gigliotti*

This survey represents the tenth consecutive year of studying Black Hills deer hunters, and the ninth year following the change in the management of the Black Hills deer herd. A major objective of these surveys are to track satisfaction and to identify other hunter-related parameters to evaluate the Black Hills deer season (i.e., provide an evaluation of each year's deer season from the hunters' perspective). A secondary purpose of these surveys are to gain an overall better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters and Black Hills deer hunting. The survey instrument used this year (12-page booklet) looked at the importance of harvest success, un-crowded hunting conditions and had a special focus on mountain lions.

The results of this study and previous years' surveys provides a very comprehensive description of Black Hills deer hunters and an evaluation of the change in deer management from the hunters' perspective. A response rate of about 86% was achieved (2,035 usable returned questionnaires). An evaluation of nonresponse bias was also conducted this year. Nonresponse bias was determined to be very minimal and not considered a problem for this survey.

### **Summarized Results**

The past Black Hills deer season (2004) was a very successful and positive deer hunting experience from the hunters' perspective for most hunters. Deer hunters reported seeing more deer, more bucks, more quality bucks and hunters' evaluation of these parameters were higher. In addition, harvest success was high and hunter crowding was not a problem. All this led to a high satisfaction level among this year's Black Hills deer hunters. All these parameters have been slowly improving since the change in deer management for the Black Hills.

- Resident satisfaction levels have risen overall since the change in management in 1996 (1995–2004: 48%–60%–47%–67%–67%–73%–76%–72%–81%–83% satisfied). Particularly noticeable is the decrease in dissatisfied hunters (43% to 10%). Nonresidents were more satisfied than were residents (1995–2004: 59%–75%–63%–74%–73%–78%–87%–83%–91%–93% satisfied).
- Residents harvested 92% (and nonresidents harvested 8%) of the total 2004 Black Hills deer harvest.
- Most whitetail bucks harvested (77%) in 2004 had 8 or more total points. From 1996 to 2004 the trend in antler points harvested increased 17% for harvested whitetail bucks and 19% for harvested mule deer bucks.



- Hunters with the 30-day, buck-only license had a 65% harvest success rate and hunters with the 10-day license had a 77% harvest success rate.

Year	Harvest Success Rate <sup>1</sup>	
	30-day License	10-day License
1999	44%	56%
2000	49%	66%
2001	58%	70%
2002	56%	72%
2003	61%	80%
2004	65%	77% <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rate does not include licensed hunters that did not hunt.

<sup>2</sup>There was a large increase in the number of tags available for the 10-day season from 2003 to 2004 (981 to 1,857).

- Overall, the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen by hunters has risen since measurements began in 1998.

Hunter Reported:	Year						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mean Total Deer Seen	42.4	43.5	77.5	54.6	69.3	80.0	77.4
Mean Total Bucks Seen	3.6	4.6	7.6	7.2	7.9	10.0	10.9
Mean Total Quality Bucks Seen	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.1

- Also, hunters' evaluations of these parameters have also increased since measurement began in 1997. These evaluations were rated on a 9-point scale of 1 (very few) to 5 (average) to 9 (lots/exceptional). On average from 1997 to 2004, hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen increased 35%, evaluation of the number of bucks seen increased 31%, and evaluation of the quality of bucks seen increased 20%.
- The management change has resulted in an improvement (for most hunters) in terms of crowding. Most hunters did not feel crowded (67%) or only slightly crowded (18%) with only 2.1% feeling very crowded. This survey also provided evidence that having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was more important for most hunters to their overall satisfaction than getting a deer. Overall, crowding was about 18% more important than harvest success for residents and about 17% for nonresidents.
- The classification scheme for Black Hills deer hunters identified 8 types of hunters (based on a hunter's top reason for liking Black Hills deer hunting). The behaviors and attitudes of each of the hunter types seem to logically fit what one would expect to find based on the dominant characteristic of each group, suggesting that this hunter-typology model is a valid tool for understanding Black Hills deer hunters.

## Classification Scheme for Black Hills Deer Hunters

**Nature Hunters (29.3%):** A relatively high percent of unsuccessful (in terms of harvesting a deer) nature hunters can be satisfied probably because the aesthetic factor is most important to this group and most of these hunters feel that the Black Hills environment adequately provides for this factor. Getting a deer is not a very important factor in producing a satisfying hunting experience for the nature hunters. Nature hunters had the highest importance rating of all eight hunter-types for, “beauty of the area” and “observing other wildlife while hunting.” Nature hunters were relatively more favorable towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types.

**Social Hunters (27.9%):** Social hunters had the highest tolerance for crowding. The social aspect of hunting is most important to this group. Harvest success is relatively low in importance to this group. Social hunters had the highest percentage of group hunting and had the highest percentage of participation in organized deer drives. Social reasons for hunting were slightly more important to nonresidents than to residents. “Maintaining special traditions” and “companionship of friends/family” were far more important to this group compared to all the other hunter-types. Social hunters tended to be more overall negative towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types.

**Excitement Hunters (18.0%):** Excitement hunters were the most difficult to characterize. Hunting for them is just plain exciting and this is more of an internal feeling rather than a single external factor. For all the variables measured in this study excitement hunters tended not to show any extremes at either end that would lend to further description of this group of hunters. In other words, these hunters tended to be somewhere in the middle range of all the variables tested in this study. On many variables (but not all as there are clearly some distinct differences) excitement hunters were somewhat similar to challenge hunters. This makes sense in that one component of having a challenging experience would be to produce excitement.

**Meat Hunters (7.3%):** Meat hunters had the highest interest level in getting a deer and they were a relatively successful group, but had the lowest percent of buck harvest. Meat hunters were the least satisfied if unsuccessful. They were the least interested in buck hunting or getting a large buck. They also had the highest percentage of hunters getting the 01/04/06-type license (any deer license). Meat hunters had the highest focus on body size as a measure of a “quality” deer while all the other hunter types focused on antler size parameters. Meat hunters also had the highest percentage of female hunters, and had the smallest percentage of nonresidents. Meat hunters had the lowest participation in other deer seasons, other big game (excluding deer) seasons, and other types of hunting (e.g., small game, waterfowl, etc.). Meat hunters had the highest preference for the Black Hills deer season probably due to the fact that a high percent of them only participate in that one deer season and a high percent live locally. Also, resident meat hunters had the second lowest mean expenditures for the 2002 Black Hills deer season, and the lowest estimated value for their Black Hills deer license and the lowest mean willingness-to-pay value. Meat hunters tended to have fewer motivations compared to most of the other hunter-types, being mainly motivated by early success and having an easy hunt. Meat hunters had the next to lowest level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions.

**Challenge Hunters (6.5%):** Challenge hunters were somewhat similar to the excitement hunters on many characteristics. They were also somewhat similar to trophy hunters but rather than focusing on the product of the hunt, a “trophy,” they tended to be more focused on the process of the hunt and desiring that this process be “challenging.” For example, challenge hunters have a high desire to get a nice buck but are much more willing to hunt harder to be successful. Unlike trophy and meat hunters who want an easy hunt and to be successful early in the season, challenge hunters want their hunt to be challenging and being successful early in the season would tend to mean that their hunt was not challenging. Challenge hunters don’t want easy access or to hunt near a road and would strongly prefer to hunt in areas with restricted vehicle access. Challenge hunters had relatively high use of archery and muzzleloader equipment for hunting deer.

**Trophy Hunters (5.2%):** Trophy hunters were the least satisfied with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunt, possibly because Black Hills deer hunting does not produce very many large bucks. Trophy hunters had a high buck-to-doe harvest ratio (87% bucks harvested). Trophy hunters had the highest interest in buck hunting and in getting a large buck and they had the second highest interest in being successful at filling their deer tag. Trophy hunters had a high preference for the buck-only (52) license. Trophy hunters also listed the highest number of points necessary for their definition of a “quality” buck. Trophy hunters and meat hunters were relatively similar on many variables, particularly being very motivated by success (getting a deer), but were widely different on their preference for the type of deer. Also, trophy hunters tended to be a bit more willing to hunt harder for their deer than were meat hunters. Trophy hunters tended to be more overall negative towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types, but had the highest level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions.

**Opportunistic Hunters (3.1%):** Opportunistic hunters’ main motivation was for additional deer hunting opportunities. Opportunistic hunters were relatively similar to meat hunters on many variables tested (although a little more interested in buck hunting compared to the meat hunters), suggesting that for this group it is not only an opportunity to get in some additional deer hunting it is also an opportunity to get another deer to eat. Opportunistic hunters were relatively focused on easy hunting, but overall less focused on exclusively Black Hills deer hunting. Opportunistic hunters are strongly interested in deer hunting in general, but had a relatively low rating of importance for Black Hills deer hunting, the least amount of years experience hunting deer in the Black Hills, and they had the lowest percent picking Black Hills as their most preferred South Dakota limited deer season. Opportunistic hunters had the highest participation in other deer seasons. The opportunistic hunters were relatively opposed in general to a new deer application process.

**Solitude Hunters (2.7%):** Solitude hunters were the smallest group of Black Hills deer hunters in 2004 and are somewhat the opposite of the social hunters on their most dominant characteristic, namely solitude. Solitude hunters are somewhat interested in buck hunting and interested in getting a large buck, however, satisfaction was far less tied to harvest success compared to the trophy hunters. By far, having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was most important to the solitude hunters. Solitude hunters had the lowest interest in hunting in a group and the lowest interest in road hunting or hunting near a road. Solitude hunters are strongly motivated by getting far away from other hunters and like to have lots of days to go hunting. Solitude hunters were most favorable towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types and had the lowest level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions.

- About 24% of the Black Hills deer hunters reported that Black Hills deer hunting was their most important recreational activity (including other types of hunting) and another 41% rated it as a very important activity. Residents and nonresidents had similar ratings.
- Residents averaged 13.9 years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and nonresidents averaged 9.1 years.
- Four aspects of “harvest” attitudes were explored in this survey. These were satisfaction even if unsuccessful at getting a deer, the importance of getting a deer, interest in buck hunting and interest in only getting a “large” buck. Residents and nonresidents had similar “harvest” attitudes towards deer. Most Black Hills deer hunters (85%) can be satisfied even if they do not kill a deer. However, killing a deer was important to over half (54%) of the Black Hills deer hunters. Many of the Black Hills deer hunters (32%) are only interested in buck hunting and many Black Hills deer hunters (44%) will only shoot a big buck (i.e., passing up legal bucks that do not measure up to their standards).
- Hunters’ subjective evaluation of the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen is a better predictor of satisfaction than the actual number seen. Also, just feeling that they saw an adequate number of deer, bucks or large bucks is more important to the satisfaction of most Black Hills deer hunters than actually getting a deer every year.
- In 2004, a Black Hills deer season rated as average would be seeing a total of 58 deer, 10 bucks and 3 quality bucks and an exceptional deer season would involve seeing 145 deer, 33 bucks and 8 quality bucks.
- Overall, about 70% of the unsuccessful hunters were satisfied but this varies, according to type of hunter, from a low of 23% for meat hunters to a high of 75% for nature hunters. Overall, 83% of those harvesting a doe were satisfied and 92% of those harvesting a buck were satisfied.

- There was a very strong relationship between years of experience and importance of Black Hills deer hunting. The longer Black Hills deer hunters hunted in the Black Hills the more important that hunting was to the hunter.
- The number of deer seen tended to increase with hunting experience up to those with 11–20 year experience, however, the hunters' evaluations of the number of deer they saw was not related to hunting experience. In other words, the more experienced deer hunters actually saw more deer but their evaluation of that number did not increase. This would be expected given the long-term decline in deer population.
- On the other hand, the number of bucks and the number of quality bucks seen increased with years of hunting experience up to those with 21–30 years experience along with hunters' evaluation of these parameters. These findings would be expected given the change in deer management. The change in deer management reduced the overall Black Hills deer population but increased the proportion of bucks in the population.
- Generally, more experienced hunters could be satisfied with their overall hunting trip even if they did not kill a deer compared to the less experienced deer hunters. Conversely, filling their deer tag was more important to less experienced hunters compared to more experienced hunters. More experienced hunters were more interested in hunting for a buck and hunting for a large buck compared to less experienced hunters.

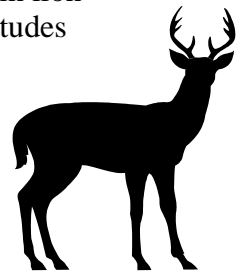
### **Mountain Lions in South Dakota**

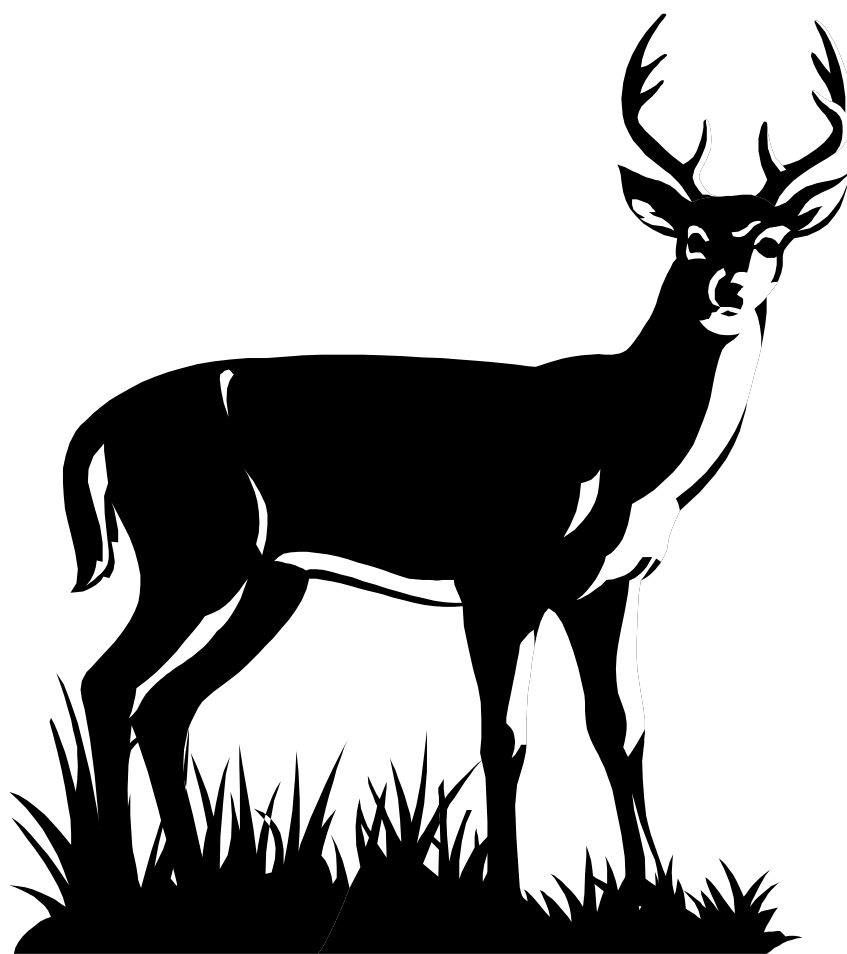
- About 6% of the deer hunters reported that they observed a mountain lion while hunting during the 2004 Black Hills deer season.
- Most Black Hills deer hunters were not concerned (53%) or only slightly concerned (29%) about their safety related to mountain lions while Black Hills deer hunting in 2004. However, about 12% were moderately concerned and 5% very concerned.
- A significant majority of Black Hills deer hunters (87%) would support a mountain lion season if the population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest. This level of support is higher than that measured for the South Dakota general public in 2002, although in that survey about 72% would support a mountain lion season.
- About three-fourths of the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters had some level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota with 38% being very interested.
- Overall, about 70% of the resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters enjoy having mountain lion in South Dakota, compared to 63% of the general public in 2002. However, about 61% of the resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters worry about problems caused by mountain lion in South Dakota, compared to 51% of the general public in 2002.

## Recommendations

In summary, the management change has been viewed very favorably by most Black Hills deer hunters, both resident and nonresident, and by all hunter types. In other words, the system seems to be working for all types of hunters.

1. The recommendation is to keep the current management system in place but to begin looking for ways to further improve hunter satisfaction by making changes within this system.
2. Continue monitoring the Black Hills deer season measuring these same eight hunter-perspective parameters and hunter typology model as well as continuing to study various aspects of what makes for a “quality” hunting experience in the Black Hills.
3. Explore the idea of changing the entire deer license allocation system to one that considers allocation of preferred deer licenses to those hunters that are most dependent on each particular season, i.e., hunters must identify their most preferred deer season as part of the lottery drawing process.
4. If a mountain lion season is implemented in 2005, conduct a survey of mountain lion hunters, Black Hills deer and elk hunters and the general public to monitor attitudes towards mountain lions and to evaluate the mountain lion season.





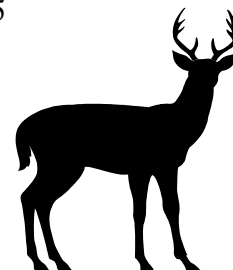
# Table of Contents

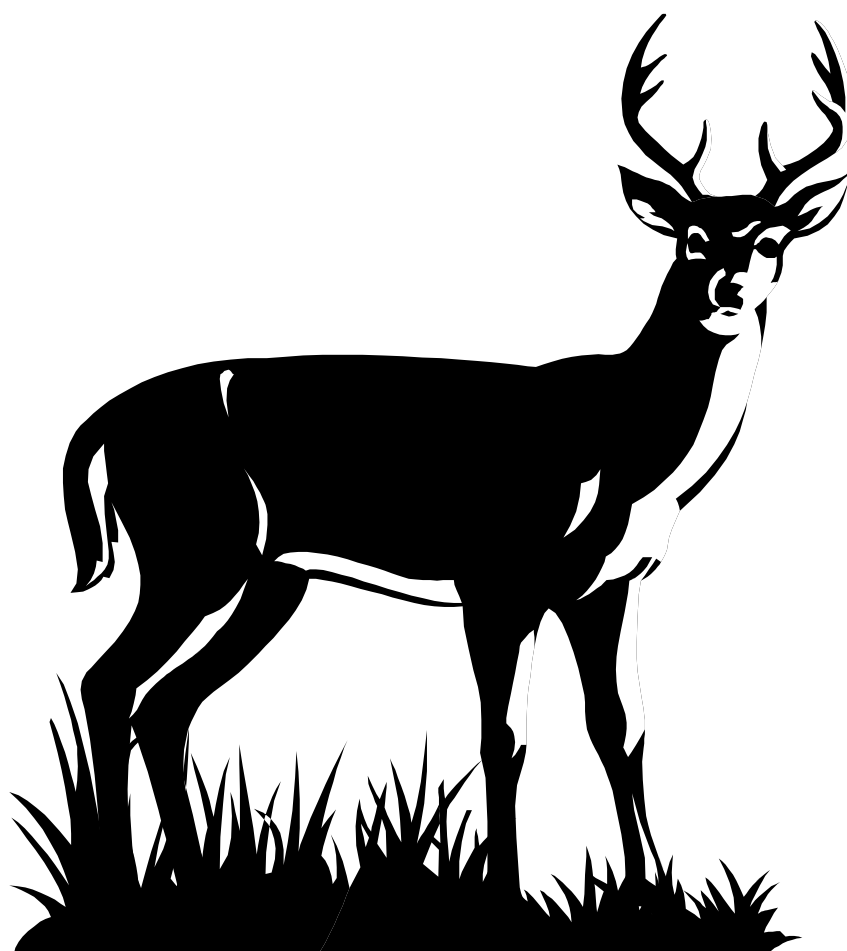
Executive Summary .....	i
Sample Selection and Return Rate.....	2
Licenses.....	2
Sample Description.....	2
Hunting Statistics.....	3
Harvest Statistics for 2004 Black Hills Deer Season.....	4
Satisfaction with the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season & Trends (1995–2004).....	5
Hunters' Evaluation of the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season.....	5
Motivations Related to Black Hills Deer Hunting.....	8
Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting.....	10
Black Hills Deer Hunting Experiences .....	10
“Harvest” Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters and Attitude towards Crowding.....	10
Mountain Lions in South Dakota.....	13
General Attitudes towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota.....	14
Optional Comments Provided by Survey Respondents.....	15
Understanding Black Hills Deer Hunting.....	15
<b>Research Question #1</b> What is the relationship between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters' subjective evaluation of these parameters (1999 – 2004)?.....	15
<b>Research Question #2</b> What is the relationship between the type of Black Hills deer hunter (based on their most important reason for Black Hills deer hunting) and the various parameters measured in this survey? .....	18
<b>Research Question #3</b> What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and various parameters measured in this survey, i.e., which variables are the best predictors of satisfaction? .....	20
<b>Research Question #3A</b> What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and success (harvesting a buck or doe?.....	23
<b>Research Question #3B</b> What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested? .....	23
<b>Research Question #4</b> What is the relationship between years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and various selected parameters measured in this survey (2004)?.....	24
<b>Research Question #5</b> Developing a mountain lion attitude model – What are the important variables for understanding Black Hills deer hunters' attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota (2004)?.....	25
<b>Research Question #6</b> Interest in a mountain lion season – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota?.....	27
<b>Research Question #7</b> General attitude towards a mountain lion season – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' general attitude towards a mountain lion season? .....	28



Discussion .....	29
Satisfaction.....	29
Hunter Typology–Motivations of Black Hills Deer Hunters .....	33
Effects of the Black Hills Deer Management Change - Trends.....	38
Importance of Deer Hunting .....	40
Threats to the Future of the Black Hills Deer Management Change .....	41
Mountain Lions in the Black Hills.....	44
The Role of Mountain Lions in the Black Hills Ecosystem–A Hypothesis .....	46
<b>Tables .....</b>	<b>49</b>
Licenses (Table 1).....	49
Sample Description (Black Hills 2004 Deer Season) (Tables 2 – 8).....	49
Hunting Statistics (Table 9) .....	56
Harvest Statistics for 2004 Black Hills Deer Season (Tables 10 – 14) .....	57
Satisfaction with the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season (Table 15).....	61
Trends – Satisfaction (1995-2004) (Tables 16A –16B).....	62
Hunters’ Evaluation of the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season (Tables 17 – 23) ...	64
Motivations Related to Black Hills Deer Hunting (Tables 24 – 29).....	71
Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting (Tables 30 – 31).....	78
Black Hills Deer Hunting Experience (Table 32).....	79
“Harvest” Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters (Tables 33 – 36).....	80
Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters towards Crowding (Tables 37 – 38)....	83
Mountain Lions in South Dakota (Tables 39 – 47).....	84
General Attitudes towards Mountain Lions (Tables 48 – 49).....	90
Optional Comments Provided by Survey Respondents (Table 50) .....	98
Understanding Black Hills Deer Hunting (Tables 51 – 125).....	98
<b>Research Question #1</b> What is the relationship between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters’ subjective evaluation of these parameters? (Tables 51 – 52) .....	98
<b>Research Question #2</b> What is the relationship between the type of Black Hills deer hunter (based on their most important reason for Black Hills deer hunting) and the various parameters measured in this survey? (Tables 53 – 70) .....	100
<b>Research Question #3</b> What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and various parameters measured in this survey, i.e., which variables are the best predictors of satisfaction? (Tables 71 – 85) .....	114
<b>Research Question #3A</b> What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and success (harvesting a buck or doe? (Tables 86 – 87) .....	127
<b>Research Question #3B</b> What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested? (Tables 88 – 90) .....	128
<b>Research Question #4</b> What is the relationship between years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and various selected parameters measured in this survey (2004)? (Tables 91 – 102) .....	129

<b>Research Question #5</b> Developing a mountain lion attitude model – What are the important variables for understanding Black Hills deer hunters' attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota (2004)? (Tables 103 – 116) .....	136
<b>Research Question #6</b> Interest in a mountain lion season – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota? (Tables 117 – 121) .....	145
<b>Research Question #7</b> General attitude towards a mountain lion season – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' general attitude towards a mountain lion season? (Tables 122 – 125) .....	148
<b>Figure 1.</b> Satisfaction trends for resident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2004) .....	6
<b>Figure 2.</b> Satisfaction trends for nonresident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2004) .....	7
<b>Figure 3.</b> Cross-tab analysis of two harvest-attitude items for Black Hills deer hunting .....	11
<b>Figure 4.</b> Cross-tab analysis of two harvest-attitude items for Black Hills deer hunting, focusing on the sub-set of hunters that can be satisfied even if unsuccessful at getting a deer .....	12
<b>Figure 5.</b> Summary attitudes by resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters .....	14
<b>Figure 6.</b> Relationship between the number of deer seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen (1999 – 2004) .....	16
<b>Figure 7.</b> Relationship between the number of bucks seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen (1999 – 2004) .....	17
<b>Figure 8.</b> Relationship between the number of quality bucks seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks seen (1999 – 2004) .....	17
<b>Figure 9.</b> Importance of harvest success and crowding (having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip) to the overall satisfaction of resident and nonresident Black Hills deer hunters (2004) .....	22
<b>Figure 10.</b> Mountain lion reports filed and known mortalities in South Dakota 2001-04 .....	44
<b>Appendix A</b> –Questionnaires and other mailings used in the survey .....	150
<b>Appendix B</b> –Nonresponse analysis for the 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey .....	169
<b>Appendix C</b> –Optional comments provided by respondents to the 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey .....	175
<b>Appendix D</b> –Comments received by e-mail from hunters in the 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey .....	264
<b>Appendix E</b> –Resident and nonresident drawing history for 2004 .....	271
<b>Appendix F</b> –Report sent to survey participants – 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey .....	275
<b>Appendix G</b> –2004 Black Hills Harvest Report .....	285





# **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

## **HD-3-05.AMS**

*Larry Gigliotti*

The purpose of this survey is to measure and track hunter satisfaction with and hunter evaluations of the Black Hills deer season. A change in the management of the Black Hills deer herd was implemented in 1996. The old management emphasized maximum recreational opportunity by offering unlimited buck licenses sold over the counter and managing the herd via limited doe licenses sold by lottery for specific Black Hills deer units. The change emphasized management of the buck herd and hunter density by also limiting the number of buck licenses available that are sold via a lottery system. The change was very controversial but favored 2-to-1 by Black Hills deer hunters. The reason for the change was to improve overall satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting.

Division of Wildlife has tracked deer hunters' satisfaction with and evaluations of their deer hunting experience for nine years following this change. A secondary purpose of this survey was to explore factors related to a “quality” Black Hills deer hunt and to gain an overall better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters. Each year a different element of “quality” was studied. The survey instrument used this year (12-page booklet) looked at the importance of harvest success, un-crowded hunting conditions and had a special focus on mountain lions (Appendix A).

The buck-only season runs from November 1 through the 30<sup>th</sup> and the any-deer / antlerless-deer season runs from November 10<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. The mailing of the first questionnaire was sent out about November 20<sup>th</sup> and hunters were asked to return their questionnaire when they finished their Black Hills deer hunting for the season. Reminder postcards were sent out on December 8<sup>th</sup> and a second mailing of the questionnaire was sent out on December 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by a postcard reminder on January 11<sup>th</sup>. A third mailing of the questionnaire was sent out on January 24<sup>th</sup>. A short questionnaire was sent to nonrespondents on February 18, 2005 (Appendix A).

### **Sample Selection and Return Rate:**

The sampling procedure randomly selected 2,212 resident hunters (32.5% of the total) and 179 non-resident hunters (33.4% of the total), each group proportional to license type and unit (Table 1) for a total sample size of 2,391. The final sample size was 2,375 (minus the 16 undeliverables). A total of 2,078 questionnaires were returned for a return rate of 87.5%, of which 2,035 were usable for a usable return rate of 85.7%. This is considered a good return rate. The results from the nonresponse survey are reported in Appendix B. Nonresponse bias was not considered a problem for this survey.

### **Licenses:**

The number of licenses sold has declined sharply over the 3-year period of 1997-1999 (12,362 in 1997; 8,262 in 1998 and 7,830 in 1999). All available Black Hills deer licenses were sold during this time period. The 2000 allotment of licenses should have been the same as the number allotted in 1999 but a processing error oversold this by 91 licenses bringing the total number of Black Hills deer licenses sold in 2000 to 7,921. However, the number of licenses available (and sold) in 2001 dropped to 6,707; to 6,449 in 2002 and 6,438 were sold in 2003. The number of licenses available and sold in 2004 increased to 7,346 due to an increase in antlerless whitetail deer licenses being available in the 10-day season. About 7% of the licensed hunters did not hunt in 2004 for various reasons (Table 1).

The two different Black Hills deer seasons (license type 52 and types 01/06) create different types of hunts, which allows hunters to choose from different options. The buck-only, 30-day season (type 52) provides a buck hunt that has two periods of low hunter density. The 10-day season (any-deer and antlerless whitetail licenses) offers a hunt with a higher overall success rate for those hunters who want to get a deer. The sampling process selected a proportional sample of each license type and residence (South Dakota resident vs. nonresident). The number of returned questionnaires by license type is listed in Table 2 and the number returned by residence is listed in Table 3.

### **Sample Description:**

South Dakota residents represented 92.0% of the usable returns sample and nonresidents comprised 8.0% (Table 3).

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

Most 2004 Black Hills nonresident deer hunters came from Minnesota (27.7%), followed by Wisconsin (15.3%), Colorado (13.1%), and Michigan (5.8%) (Table 4).

The top five resident counties for the 2004 Black Hills deer season were Pennington (31.0%), Lawrence (11.4%), Minnehaha (9.1%), Meade (9.1%), and Custer (6.7%) (Table 5). These were the same top five counties in 1997<sup>1</sup>, 1998<sup>2</sup>, 1999<sup>3</sup>, 2000<sup>4</sup>, 2001<sup>5</sup>, 2002<sup>6</sup> and 2003<sup>7</sup>. Black Hills counties (Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River and Meade) accounted for 59.8% of the total 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters. West River counties, excluding the counties in the Black Hills accounted for only 4.2% and East River counties accounted for 36.0% of the total number of hunters (Table 6).

Most (92.5%) 2004 Black Hills deer hunters were male (Table 7). Percentage of female Black Hills deer hunters has risen from 3.7% in 1998 to 7.5% in 2004. Female hunters comprised 7.9% of the resident hunters and 3.1% of the nonresident hunters (Table 7-A). The mean age of the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters was 42.8 years (Table 8). Mean age seems to be increasing for Black Hills deer hunters based on the past seven years of measuring this variable. On average, resident hunters were slightly younger than were nonresident hunters (42.2 years vs. 46.3 years) (Table 8-A).

### **Hunting Statistics:**

Resident hunters hunting the 30-day season averaged 5.2 days and nonresidents averaged 4.2 days of hunting (Table 9). Resident hunters hunting the 10-day season averaged 2.6 days and nonresidents averaged 3.0 days (Table 9). There appears to be a slight decline in the average number of days hunted over the past seven years (1999 –

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<sup>1</sup> Gigliotti, L.M., 1998. 1997 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID#: HD-1-98.SAM. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>2</sup> Gigliotti, L., P. Backman, J. Jenks, and D. Hubbard. 1999. Black Hills deer hunting survey–1998. Report ID#: HD-1-99.SAM. S. D. Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>3</sup> Gigliotti, L., P. Backman, J. Jenks, and D. Hubbard. 2000. 1999 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID#: HD-3-00.SAM. S. D. Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>4</sup> Gigliotti, L.M. 2001. 2000 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID#: HD-1-01.SAM. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>5</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2002. 2001 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-6-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>6</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2003. 2002 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-4-03.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>7</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2004. 2003 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-3-04.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

2004).<sup>8</sup> The 2004 Black Hills deer season provided an estimate of 30,811 recreation days (Table 9-A).

### **Harvest Statistics for 2004 Black Hills Deer Season:**

Success for the buck-only license (400A-52) was estimated to be 65.9% and success for the other license types and units was estimated to be about 77.2% overall (Table 10). The harvest success rate has generally been increasing over the past five years (Table 10-A).

**Note:** In this report, harvest success is used as a variable for helping to understand satisfaction and other variables. A separate harvest report contains more accurate estimates based on larger sample sizes as well as estimates for the harvest by unit. Data from that survey is presented in this report to compare with overall harvest estimates obtained with this survey (Table 11). Both survey methods produced similar results.

Nonresidents had slightly higher harvest success rates than did residents (Table 12). Overall, residents harvested 91.8% of the total deer harvested and nonresidents harvested 8.2%.

**Note:** The harvest success rates reported in Tables 10 –12 are based on excluding the hunters that did not hunt during the 2004 Black Hills deer season. Table 12-A calculates the harvest success rate for all licensed hunters, including those that did not hunt for the 30-day and 10-day seasons (61.4% and 68.6% respectively), with a total average success rate of 63.2%.

Most whitetail bucks harvested in 2004 were 8-points (eastern count) (48.0%) with less than 1% being spikes (Table 13). Most mule deer bucks harvested were 4-points (eastern count) (36.2%) with less than 1% being spikes (Table 13). About 77% of the whitetail bucks harvested were 8-point or greater and about 21% of the mule deer bucks were 8-points or greater. Average number of points on harvested whitetail bucks were 6.7 in 1996, 6.7 in 1997, 7.0 in both 1998 and 1999, 7.5 in 2000, 7.8 in 2001, 7.9 in 2002, and 8.1 in both 2003 and 2004 (Table 14). Average number of points on harvested mule deer bucks were 4.7 in 1996, 5.1 in 1997, 5.3 in 1998, 5.5 in 1999, 5.8 in 2000, 5.9 in 2001, 6.0 in 2002, 5.9 in 2003, and 5.8 in 2004 (Table 14).

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<sup>8</sup> The decline in average number of days hunted may be due to an increase in the success rate (harvest).

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

The trend in antler points represents a total 17% increase for harvested whitetail bucks and a 19% increase for mule deer bucks. Although it was not measured, the largest change occurred between 1995 and 1996 because of the management change restricting the type-52 license to harvest 2-points (on one side) or better. However, this change would not be the result of a change in population structure but rather an artificial change in the harvest. The population change is measured in the difference from 1996 data.

### **Satisfaction with the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season & Trends (1995–2004):**

About 83% of the Black Hills deer hunters were satisfied and about 10% were dissatisfied (Table 15). A greater percentage of nonresidents were satisfied compared to residents (93% vs. 83%). Appendices C and D contains general comments by the Black Hills deer hunters regarding the 2004 deer season.

Satisfaction levels have steadily risen between 1995 and 2004, with the exception of 1997 and a slight drop in 2002, since the management change in 1996 (Tables 16-A and 16-B and Figures 1 and 2). In 1996, satisfaction was strongly affected by implementation of the management change. Since most people favored the change, overall satisfaction increased from 1995 to 1996. By 1997, attitude towards the management change became less important in affecting satisfaction. While many factors are involved in producing a satisfying hunting experience, success (getting a deer) is a relatively important factor. Success was higher in 1996 compared to 1997, which contributed to the drop in satisfaction in 1997. Success was generally increasing from 1998 through 2004, as was satisfaction. This satisfaction level is exceptional considering the low level of satisfaction level measured in 1995 before the change in deer management for the Black Hills.

### **Hunters' Evaluation of the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season:**

Four variables, designed to measure hunters' evaluations of the deer season, were tested in the 1997 survey of Black Hills deer hunters. These variables were subjective evaluations of the total number of deer, bucks, and quality bucks seen, and an evaluation of the degree of crowding. In addition to these four variables, five additional variables were tested in the 1998 survey of Black Hills deer hunters. These variables were the actual number of deer, bucks, and "quality" bucks seen, a subjective evaluation of the



## 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

Larry M. Gigliotti

natural beauty of the Black Hills, and the importance of the factor, “natural beauty” to their Black Hills deer hunting experience. All nine variables were measured in 1999. Two of these variables (the subjective evaluation of the natural beauty of the Black Hills, and the importance of the factor, “natural beauty” to their Black Hills deer hunting experience) were dropped for the 2000–2004 surveys of deer hunters.

On average, 2004 Black Hills deer hunters saw about 77 deer, 11 bucks and 3.1 “quality” bucks. These are compared with the numbers hunters reported seeing in 1998 through 2003 (Tables 17 and 17-A – 17-C). All three parameters have generally increased from 1998 – 2004. Hunters’ subjective evaluation, on a scale of 1 (very few) to 5 (average) to 9 (lots/exceptional), was 6.3 for the number of deer seen, 5.0 for the number of bucks seen and about 4.8 for the “quality” of bucks seen (Tables 18–20). All three subjective evaluations improved significantly from 1997 (Tables 21-A and 21-B). Evaluation of the number of deer seen increased 35%, evaluation of the number of bucks seen increased 31%, and the evaluation of the “quality” of bucks seen increased by 20% (Table 21-A). Most of these increases were the result of changing from a “low” evaluation to a “medium” evaluation (Table 21-B).

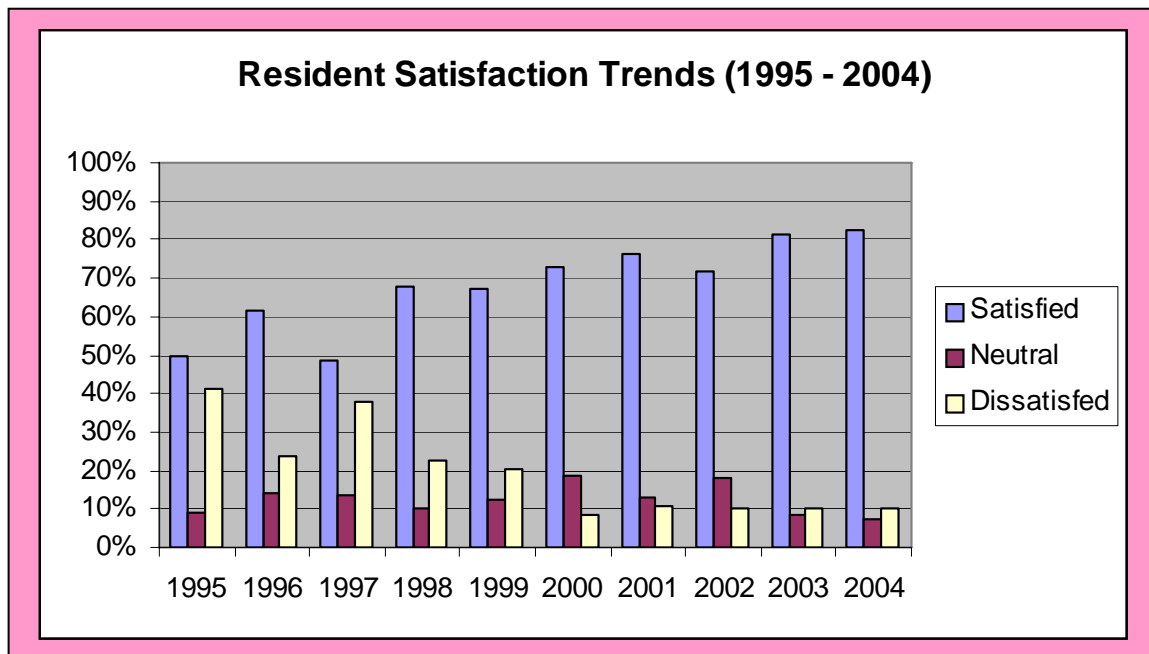


Figure 1. Satisfaction trends for resident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2004).

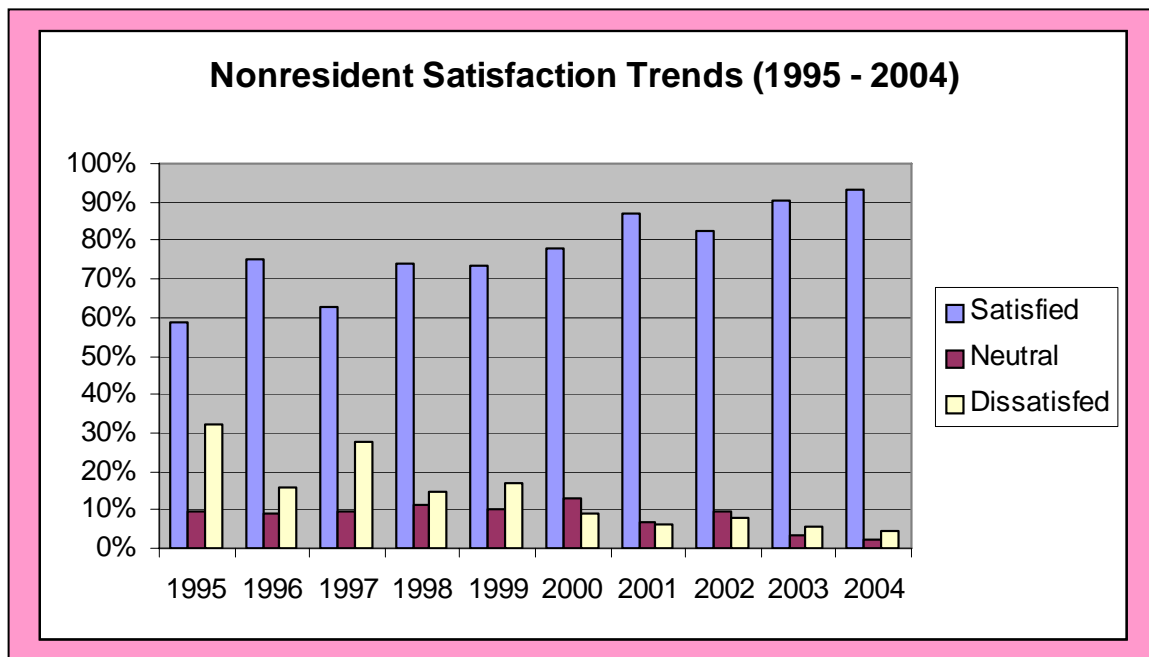


Figure 2. Satisfaction trends for nonresident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2004).

About 66% of the Black Hills deer hunters rated the degree of crowding as “just right,” 6% rated it as “not enough” hunters and only 2.2% felt “very crowded” (Table 22). The one-third fewer Black Hills deer hunters in 1998 compared to 1997 did result in a significant improvement in hunters’ evaluation of crowding—a 7.6% increase (51.2% to 58.8%) in the number of hunters rating crowding as “just right” and a 4.5% decrease (7.0% to 2.5%) in the number of hunters feeling “very crowded” (Table 23). And, the additional five percent decrease in actual hunter numbers in 1999 resulted in another 7.5% increase (58.8% to 66.3%) in the number of hunters rating crowding as “just right”, only 1.9% feeling “very crowded” but an increase in the percent rating crowding as “not enough hunters” (7.3% to 10.0%) (Table 23). A very slight increase in the number of hunters in 2000 led to a slight increase in the percent feeling crowded however the slight change in perceived crowding in 2000 may simply be due to normal fluctuations in this parameter. And, the small reduction in actual hunter numbers in 2001 and again in 2002 resulted in a very small reduction of the number of hunters reporting feeling crowded. The number of hunters in 2003 was almost identical to 2002 as were the hunters’

evaluation of crowding. The number of hunters increased about 14% in 2004 (all the increase was in hunters during the 10-day season) and apparently this increase did not have any impact on perceived crowding. Apparently the number of hunters during the Black Hills deer season ranging between about 6,500 to 8,000 causes very little perceived crowding by hunters participating in the hunt.

### **Motivations Related to Black Hills Deer Hunting:**

Hunters were asked to rate the importance of eight possible reasons (meat, nature, excitement, social, trophy, solitude, challenge, and additional hunting opportunity) for liking Black Hills deer hunting (Tables 24-A –24-H). This list was the same set of variables also tested in 1997 and 1998 with the exception of dropping the “exercise” reason and adding the “challenge” reason for 1998 – 2004 and adding the “hunting” reason in the 2000 through 2004 surveys. Residents and nonresidents had similar mean ratings for nature (Table 24-B), excitement (Table 24-C), trophy (Table 24-E), solitude (Table 24-F), challenge (Table 24-G), and more hunting opportunity (Table 24-H) reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting. Residents had a significantly higher mean importance rating for meat (Table 24-A) than did nonresidents, while nonresidents had a significantly higher mean importance rating social (Table 24-D) reasons. Overall, the rankings for residents and nonresidents were relatively similar (Table 25).

Although a strict comparison can not be made to 1997–1999 results because of changes in the list of reasons that hunters were asked to rate, the ratings of the reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting were relatively similar for all eight years measured (1997–2004) (Table 26).

Hunters were also asked to pick their top reason for why they like Black Hills deer hunting. Most residents picked nature (28.9%) and social (27.2%) reasons as their top reasons and most nonresidents picked social (35.6%) and nature (34.4%) reasons as their top reason (Table 27). A big difference between residents and nonresidents was the percent picking “meat” as their top reason: about 8% of the residents picked this reason as their main reason for liking Black Hills deer hunting while only 2.5% of the nonresidents picked meat.

Again, a strict comparison can not be made to the 1997–1999 results because of the change in the list of reasons, but the relative percentages of top reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting were relatively similar for the eight years (1997–2004) measured. However, the top two reasons, nature and social, traded top billing positions over the time period (Table 28).

Hunters hunt for a number of reasons and these reasons or motivations are related to the benefits that hunters expect to receive from their hunting experience. One of the most important human dimensions concept for the management of hunters is that hunters are not all alike. Each hunter has a package of reasons or motivations for hunting and thus expects a unique package of benefits. While a manager cannot manage the resource for each individual hunter, a classification system that combines hunters into similar types would greatly help to understand their diverse needs. In the survey, hunters' main reason for liking Black Hills deer hunting will serve to segment or classify Black Hills deer hunters into eight types: nature, social, excitement, challenge, meat, trophy, hunting opportunist, and solitude.

The two largest groups of 2004 deer hunters were nature (29.3%) and social (27.9%) hunters (Table 29). While a hunter can be classified as a specific type of hunter, each hunter has a package of motivations. For example, for nature hunters, nature was their top reason, but other reasons had varying levels of importance. Some reasons, such as nature, social and excitement were relatively important for all groups, while the other reasons were more discriminating.

While relatively small in size, the two most distinct types of hunters are the meat (7.3%) and the trophy (5.2%) hunters (Table 29). For all other groups, meat and trophy reasons ranked low, but for the meat hunters, meat was ranked highest and trophy low, and vice versa for the trophy hunters. This would suggest that there are two distinct types of success variables, one being killing a deer and the other being killing a nice buck.

*The value of this classification system will be further discussed later in this report.*

### **Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting:**

About 24% of the Black Hills deer hunters reported that Black Hills deer hunting was their most important recreational activity (including other types of hunting) and another 41% rated it as a very important activity (Table 30). Residents and nonresidents had statistically similar ratings. The importance rating was relatively similar over the past eight years (1997–2004) (Table 31).

### **Black Hills Deer Hunting Experiences:**

About 13% of the 2004 resident hunters were first time Black Hills deer hunters compared to about 21% of the nonresidents (Table 32). The percent of first time nonresident hunters ranged from 33% in 1996 to 18% in 1997 to 26% in 1998 and 1999, to 28% in 2000 to 23% in 2001 to 30% in 2002 and was 21% in both 2003 and 2004. Residents had an average of 13.9 years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and nonresidents had an average of 9.1 years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 32).

### **“Harvest” Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters and Attitude towards Crowding:**

Four aspects of “harvest” attitudes were explored in this survey. These were satisfaction even if unsuccessful at getting a deer, the importance of getting a deer, interest in buck hunting and interest in only getting a “large” buck (see Appendix A, Question #17).

Residents and nonresidents had similar “harvest” attitudes related to Black Hills deer hunting (Table 33). Also, attitudes were relatively similar over the past four year in which they were measured (2001 – 2004), with the exception of an increased willingness to shoot a doe, which is most likely due to the increased number of antlerless deer tags available in 2004 (Table 34).

Most Black Hills deer hunters (84.8%) can be satisfied even if they do not kill a deer (Table 33). However, killing a deer was important to over half (53.9%) of the Black Hills deer hunters. Many of the Black Hills deer hunters (32.2%) are only interested in buck hunting and many Black Hills deer hunters (44.3%) will only shoot a big buck (i.e., passing up legal bucks that do not measure up to their standards).

Two of these items, satisfaction if unsuccessful (Appendix A, Question #17A) and importance of getting a deer (Appendix A, Question #17C), at first seem to be asking the

same thing but produced different results. Basically, a large percent of hunters can be satisfied with their hunt even if they are unsuccessful at getting a deer, yet feel that getting their deer is important to them. To illustrate this I combined the strongly and slightly categories and eliminated the neutral category to provide a simple two-by-two cross-tabs analysis (Figure 3). For 59.6% of the hunters, they can be satisfied with their hunting trip even if they don't kill a deer yet they reported that killing a deer is important to them. This concept is very important in understanding the relationship between harvest success and satisfaction. For the group of hunters (30.5%) that said they can be satisfied even if they do not kill a deer it is easy to understand why, because killing a deer is not important to them. And for the hunters that would be dissatisfied if they did not kill a deer, that is because killing a deer is important to them (8.4%), so important that they would be dissatisfied if unsuccessful. For the 1.6% that said they would be dissatisfied if they did not kill a deer, yet said that killing a deer was not important to them, all I can say is that this either represents mistakes made by the respondents in answering these questions or some convoluted logic that I don't understand.

A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>
Filling my Black Hills deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>
Percent of Deer Hunters (n=1,464) <sup>1</sup>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Removes the number of hunters responding "neutral" or "no opinion" to either item (n=371 cases removed).

Figure 3. Cross-tab analysis of two harvest-attitude items for Black Hills deer hunting.

In addition to the four "harvest" attitude questions, a second question also asked about the importance of harvest to one's overall satisfaction (Appendix A, Question #15) using more detailed response categories (not, slightly, moderately and very important). And, a question about the importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to one's overall satisfaction (Appendix A, Question #16) using the same detailed response categories. This was done to measure the relative importance of harvest success vs. crowding conditions.

Only 9.4% of the hunters reported that getting their deer was not important to their overall satisfaction and 19.1% said that it was very important (Table 35). Most hunters were in the middle with 26.4% saying that it was slightly important and 43.6% saying moderately important. Residents and nonresidents were similar on this aspect. Hunter response to this item was similar over the past three years (2001 – 2003) with a very slight increase in importance in 2004 most likely due to the increase in antlerless deer tags available in 2004 (Table 36). This item was also compared with the satisfaction if unsuccessful item (Figure 4). Of those hunters reporting that they can be satisfied even if unsuccessful, 14.2% still reported that getting their deer was very important.

A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.	<b>AGREE</b>			
Filling my Black Hills deer tag is _____ (important) to me.	<b>NOT</b>	<b>SLIGHTLY</b>	<b>MODERATELY</b>	<b>VERY</b>
Percent of Deer Hunters (n=1,681) <sup>1</sup>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>30.2%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
<sup>1</sup> Removes the number of hunters responding "neutral" or "no opinion" to either item (n=336 cases removed).				

Figure 4. Cross-tab analysis of two harvest-attitude items for Black Hills deer hunting, focusing on the sub-set of hunters that can be satisfied even if unsuccessful at getting a deer.

A far greater percent of hunters (48.5%) felt that having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was very important to their overall satisfaction compared to only 19.1% feeling that getting their deer was very important to their overall satisfaction (Table 37). Residents and nonresidents were similar on this aspect. Hunter response to this item was similar over the past four years (2001 – 2004) (Table 38). This aspect may actually be more responsible for the increase in satisfaction with the deer season management change than any change in actual success, however, perceptions of the deer herd health seem to be the strongest predictors of overall satisfaction with the hunting trip.

### **Mountain Lions in South Dakota:**

Overall, most Black Hills deer hunters were aware that mountain lion live in South Dakota (98.5%) (99% of the residents and 91% of the nonresidents) (Table 39). Most Black Hills deer hunters have observed tracks or signs of mountain lions in South Dakota (57%), about 21% have observed a mountain lion in the wild in South Dakota at some time doing non-hunting activities and 14% while hunting, not including the 2004 Black Hills deer season (Table 40). Almost 6% reported that they observed a mountain lion while Black Hills deer hunting in 2004 (6.0% excluding hunters that did not hunt and 5.8% includes all the licensed hunters). Overall, this would provide an estimate of about 409 to 426 hunters seeing a mountain lion while Black Hills deer hunting in 2004.

Most Black Hills deer hunters were not concerned (53%) or only slightly concerned (29%) about their safety related to mountain lions while Black Hills deer hunting in 2004 (Table 41). However, about 12% were moderately concerned and 5% very concerned. Resident hunters were slightly more concerned about their safety compared to nonresident hunters.

Almost half (47.9%) of the Black Hills deer hunters felt that mountain lion numbers should be reduced if such action would increase deer hunting opportunities (Table 42). A slightly higher percent of resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters agreed with this action compared to a survey of the South Dakota general public in 2002 (the general public sample included about 35% who were big game hunters) (Table 43).

A significant majority of Black Hills deer hunters would support a mountain lion season if the population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest (Table 44). This level of support is higher than that measured for the South Dakota general public in 2002, although in that survey about 72% would support a mountain lion season (Table 45).

About three-fourths of the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters had some level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota with 38% being very interested (Table 46). Residents had slightly higher interest than did nonresidents.

Overall, about 70% of the resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters enjoy having mountain lion in South Dakota, compared to 63% of the general public in 2002 (Table 47). However, about 61% of the resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters worry about problems caused by mountain lion in South Dakota, compared to 51% of the general public in 2002.



**General Attitudes towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota:**

Twelve questions were used to measure general attitudes towards mountain lions and to develop a model of attitudes towards mountain lions (Appendix A, Questions 21a – 21l). The results are summarized in Figure 5 and full results with comparison to the 2002 general public survey can be found in Tables 48a – 48l.

<b>Attitude Question</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
a. The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.	68.5%	17.7%	13.7%
b. Mountain lions help maintain deer populations in balance with their habitats.	66.1%	13.8%	20.1%
c. The presence of mountain lions <u>in South Dakota</u> increases my overall quality of life.	28.6%	37.2%	34.1%
d. The presence of mountain lions <u>near my home</u> increases my overall quality of life.	18.4%	29.7%	51.9%
e. Mountain lions <u>do not</u> compete with hunters for deer.	35.7%	15.8%	48.5%
f. Mountain lions should have the right to exist wherever they may occur.	51.1%	12.2%	36.7%
g. Mountain lions are an unacceptable threat to livestock.	42.7%	23.3%	34.0%
h. Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me	41.4%	29.3%	29.4%
i. I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.	36.5%	21.6%	42.0%
j. Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.	29.4%	16.6%	54.0%
k. By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.	73.8%	11.7%	14.6%
l. People who live in mountain lion country should modify certain behaviors (e.g., hiking or jogging alone on trails, hunting alone, feeding deer) to decrease the chance of a negative interaction with a mountain lion.	70.0%	12.8%	17.2%

Figure 5. Summary attitudes by resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters (see Tables 48a – 48l).

The resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters were statistically similar to the 2002 South Dakota general public for four of the twelve mountain lion attitudes (Table 49). On another four of the questions the resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters were slightly

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

more negative towards mountain lions compared to the 2002 South Dakota general public (differences in mean attitude ranged from 3.3% to 5.8%) (Table 49). The largest differences between the 2002 South Dakota general public and the resident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters were on four questions that had some relation to deer hunting (differences in mean attitude ranged from 8.0% to 16.5%) (Table 49).

### **Optional Comments Provided by Survey Respondents**

About 34% of the respondents to the 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey provided optional comments at the end of their questionnaire or by e-mail (Table 50 and Appendices C and D). A slightly higher percent of nonresidents provided comments compared to residents (46% vs. 33%)

Appendix E contains the license drawing history for the 2004 Black Hills deer season.

### **Understanding Black Hills Deer Hunting:**

This section explores the interrelationship of some of the variables in this survey to gain a better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters. This section poses seven research questions to accomplish this task.

#### **Research Question #1**

What is the relationship between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters' subjective evaluation of these parameters (1999 – 2004)?

Hunters' subjective evaluation of the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen is a better predictor of satisfaction than the actual number seen. However, managers also want to know the meaning of a rating value in terms of the actual number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen. Unfortunately it is different for each hunter. One hunter can see 10 deer and give it a rating of 9 (lots of deer) on a 9-point scale and another hunter can see 10 deer and rate it as 1 (very few). However, on average, as the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen increases, hunters' evaluation of these parameters increases (Figure 6–8) (Tables 51 and 52-A – 52-C). For example, on average in 2004, hunters seeing a total of 12 deer rated that as one (very few) while seeing 58 deer was rated as a five (average) and hunters seeing 145 deer rated the season as a nine (lots of

# 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

Larry M. Gigliotti

deer) (Figure 6 and Table 52-A). Of course this scale changes for bucks with seeing 10 bucks being evaluated as a five (average) and seeing 33 bucks being evaluated as a nine (lots) (Figure 7 and Table 52-B). And, seeing about 3 quality bucks being rated as a five (average) and seeing about 8 quality bucks being rated as a nine (exceptional) (Figure 8 and Table 52-C). Thus on average in 2004, an average season would be seeing a total of 58 deer, 10 bucks and 3 quality bucks and an exceptional deer season would involve seeing 145 deer, 33 bucks and 8 quality bucks.

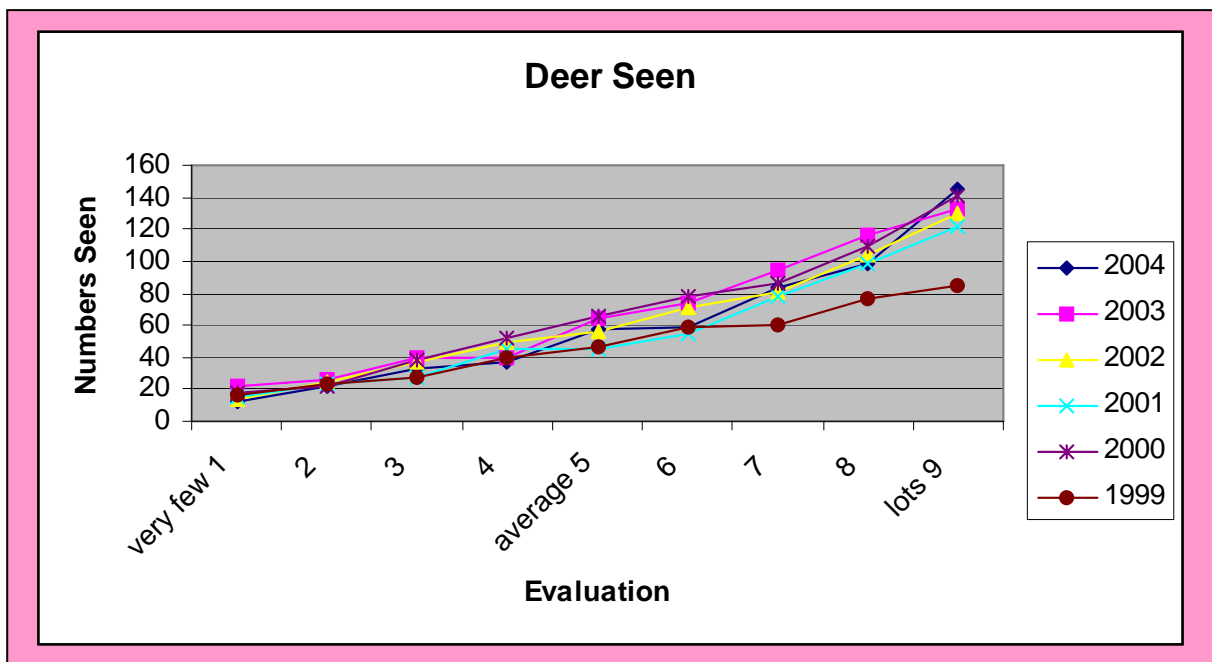


Figure 6. Relationship between the number of deer seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen (1999 – 2004).

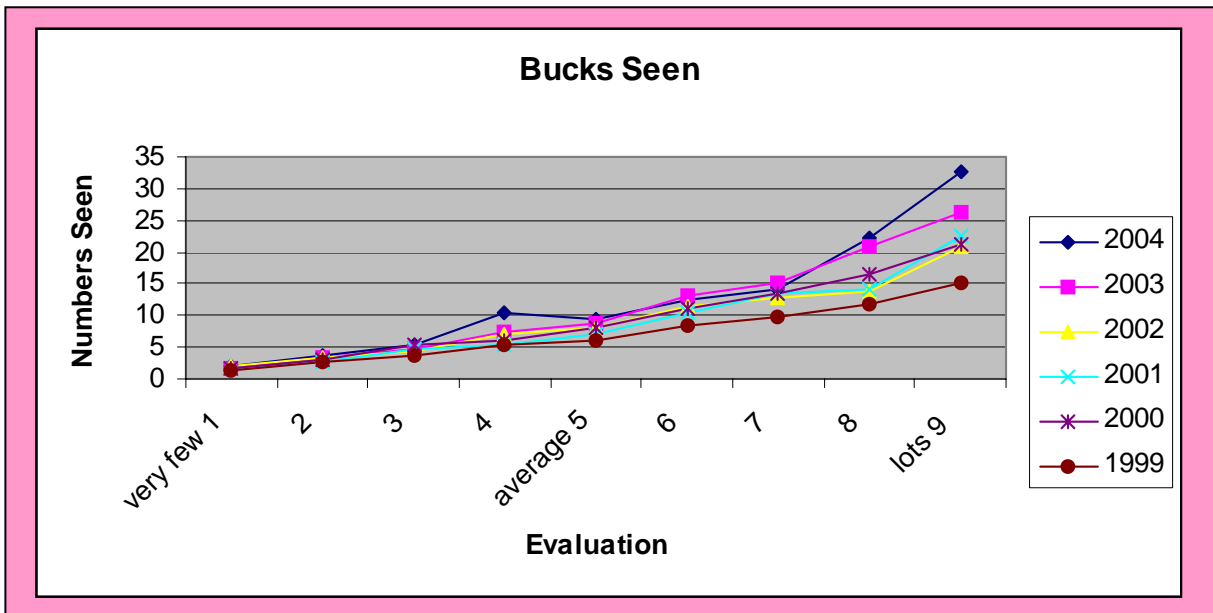


Figure 7. Relationship between the number of bucks seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen (1999 – 2004).

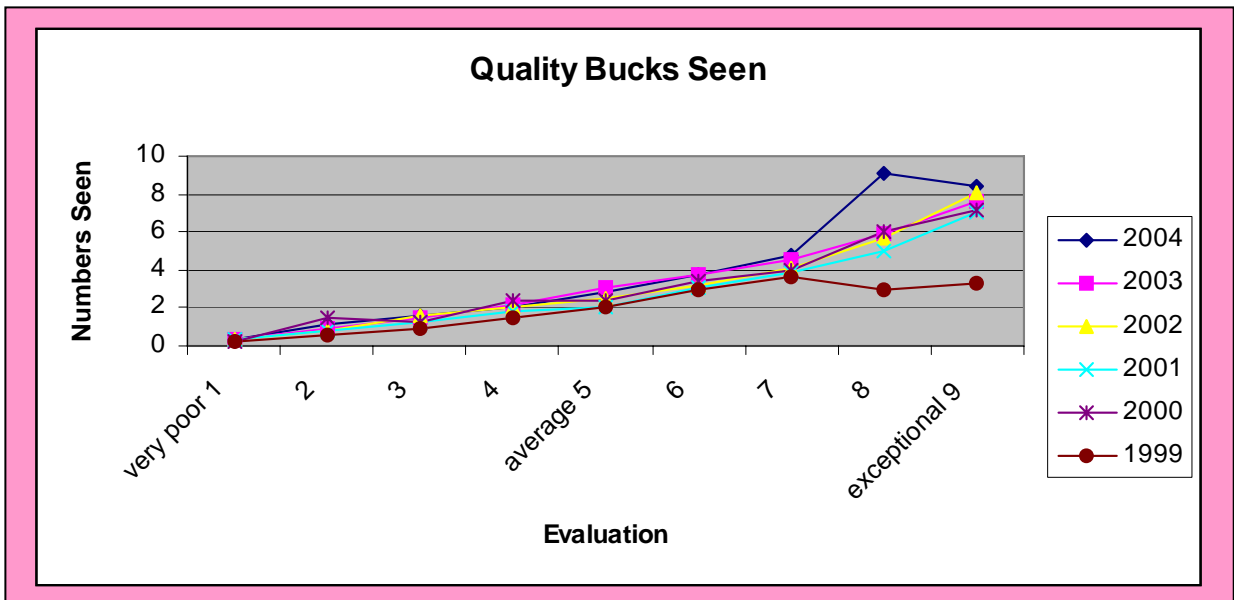


Figure 8. Relationship between the number of quality bucks seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks seen (1999 – 2004).

**Research Question #2**

What is the relationship between type of Black Hills deer hunter (based on their most important reason for Black Hills deer hunting) and the various parameters measured in this survey?

To be useful, a classification scheme should be able to predict various characteristics and behaviors, i.e., hunters should exhibit important differences on certain characteristics and behaviors.

In 2004 the solitude hunters had the highest mean satisfaction and the trophy hunters had the lowest mean satisfaction (Table 53). However, social hunters had the highest percent satisfied (86.3%) and trophy hunters (66.7%) the lowest percent satisfied (Table 54). Some types of hunters are more easily satisfied than are others. For example, some types of hunters are more focused on non-harvest benefits, which are easier to achieve during the hunting experience, while other types seem to be more dependent on deer population factors (e.g., meat and trophy hunters) (Table 29). In spite of the differences in satisfaction level among the hunter types in 2004 most of the hunter types were statistically similar in satisfaction level.

On average, the trophy hunters reported seeing the most deer (98) and meat hunters saw the least (56) (Table 55). Social hunters had the highest evaluation of the number of deer seen (6.4) and the solitude hunters had the lowest evaluation (5.6) (Table 55). These overall differences in the number of deer seen and their evaluations of the number of deer seen by the different types of hunters were significant, however, most hunter types were relatively similar.

On average, the trophy hunters reported seeing the most bucks (17.1) and the solitude and meat hunters saw the least (8.9 each) (Table 56). Challenge hunters had the highest evaluation of the number of bucks seen (5.3) and meat hunters the lowest evaluation (4.6) (Table 56). The overall difference in the number of bucks seen was slightly significant but the evaluation of the number of bucks seen by the different types of hunters was not significant.

Trophy hunters saw the most quality bucks (3.8) while challenge hunters had the highest rating of the quality of bucks seen (5.1) (Table 57). Solitude hunters saw the least number of quality bucks (1.9) while trophy hunters had the lowest rating of quality of bucks seen (4.3) (Table 57). The differences in the number of quality bucks seen was not

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

significant, but the overall difference in the evaluation of the quality of bucks seen by the different types of hunters was significant.

Meat hunters were the most successful (75.3%) and solitude hunters the least (57.4%), in 2004 (Table 58). Meat hunters harvested about 60 bucks to does while opportunistic hunters had the highest ratio of bucks to does harvested (89.7%) (Table 59).

The different types of hunters had significantly different harvest-attitudes (Tables 60-A and 60-B). Solitude hunters had the most agreement with the statement that they could be satisfied with their Black Hills deer hunting trip even if they did not kill a deer and meat hunters the least. Also, meat hunters had the highest agreement with the statement that filling their Black Hills deer tag was important to them (Tables 60-A, 60-B, 61-A and 61-B). Trophy hunters had the highest interest in only hunting for a buck and meat hunters the lowest interest in only hunting for a buck. And as expected, trophy hunters had the highest interest in hunting for a large buck and meat hunters the lowest interest in hunting for a large buck. Thus, meat and trophy hunters are relatively similar in their interest in getting a deer but widely different in their interest in the type of deer they want (Tables 60-A, 60-B, 61-A and 61-B).

In terms of degree of crowding, solitude hunters had the highest percent rating the 2004 Black Hills deer season as “just right” (73.5%) while the meat hunters had the lowest percent rating the 2004 Black Hills deer season as “just right” (61.7%) (Table 62). Having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was most important to the solitude hunters and least important to the social hunters (Tables 63-A and 63-B). The overall difference between the solitude and social hunters is quite large with 63.0% of the solitude hunters reporting that having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was very important to their overall satisfaction and only 36.6% of the social hunters reporting that it was very important.

Black Hills deer hunting was most important to the challenge hunters and least important to the opportunistic hunters (Table 64-A and 64-B). Challenge hunters in the 30-day season had the most days of hunting (6.7 days) while nature hunters had the least number of days (4.4 days) (Table 65).

Solitude hunters had the highest mean number of years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (20.2 years) and trophy hunters the least number of years (9.0 years)

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

(Table 66). Solitude hunters had the highest mean age (50.1 years) and trophy hunters the lowest mean age (37.0 years) (Table 67). Meat hunters had the highest percentage of female hunters (25.9%) and hunting opportunist hunters had the lowest percentage of females (3.3%) (Table 68).

Challenge hunters, followed by trophy hunters had the highest average number of points on harvested white-tailed bucks (8.6 and 8.5; respectively), while meat hunters had the lowest average number of points on harvested white-tailed bucks (7.3) (Table 69).

Sample size for mule deer bucks was too small for some of the hunter types for an accurate comparison, however, trophy hunters had the highest average number of points on harvested mule deer bucks (7.5) and meat hunters the lowest average number of points (4.5) (Table 69).

Challenge hunters had the highest percent of respondents providing optional comments on the questionnaire (43.1%), while the meat hunters had the lowest percent of optional comments (30.1%) (Table 70), although the relationship was not statistically significant.

In conclusion, this hunter classification scheme, based on the hunter's most important reason for liking Black Hills deer hunting, is a useful tool for understanding Black Hills deer hunters.

### **Research Question #3**

What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and various parameters measured in this survey, i.e., which variables are the best predictors of satisfaction?

Nineteen variables were tested for significant correlation with satisfaction; 17 variables were significant (Table 71). Interest in buck hunting, and interest in "large" buck hunting were the two variables not linearly related to satisfaction. Evaluation of the number of bucks seen had the highest correlation with satisfaction (0.370) while the actual number of bucks seen had a much lower correlation (0.103). Evaluation of the number of deer seen had the second highest correlation with satisfaction and evaluation of the quality of bucks seen was third. Success was measured two different ways.

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

Success2, coded as none=0, doe=1, buck=2, had the fourth highest and success1, coded as none=0, doe or buck=1, had the fifth highest correlation with satisfaction.

The seven variables with the highest correlation with satisfaction were analyzed by hunter type (Table 72). Each hunter type had a unique profile, although overall the hunter types were relatively similar.

Crowding can significantly affect satisfaction. Hunters feeling crowded were less satisfied than hunters not feeling crowded (Table 73). Also, hunters feeling that there were not enough hunters in the woods were less satisfied than those reporting that hunter density was “just right.” Note that few of the solitude hunters felt crowded. It is likely that due to the importance of solitude as a dominate motivation in Black Hills deer hunters, these hunter-types sought out and found un-crowded conditions and therefore few felt crowded during their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experiences.

While harvest success was a better predictor of satisfaction than crowding in the 2004 empirical data, multiple-regression model it does not necessarily mean that harvest success is overall more important to satisfaction. The problem with this type of analysis is that hunters can self-select the degree of crowding that they find acceptable. Since crowding is not really a problem there is little empirical data to indicate that it affects satisfaction. In this study hunters were asked to evaluate the importance (using the same scale) of both harvest success and crowding (having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip) to their overall satisfaction (Tables 35 and 37). Crowding was about 18% more important than harvest success for residents and about 17% for nonresidents (Figure 9).

The hunters’ evaluations of deer population parameters (evaluation of the number of deer seen, number of bucks seen and the number of “quality” bucks seen) were much better predictors of satisfaction than were the actual values of the same deer population parameters (actual number of deer seen, number of bucks seen and the number of “quality” bucks seen) (Tables 74 – 76). Overall, hunters’ evaluation of the deer population based on the three factors was the three best predictors of satisfaction.



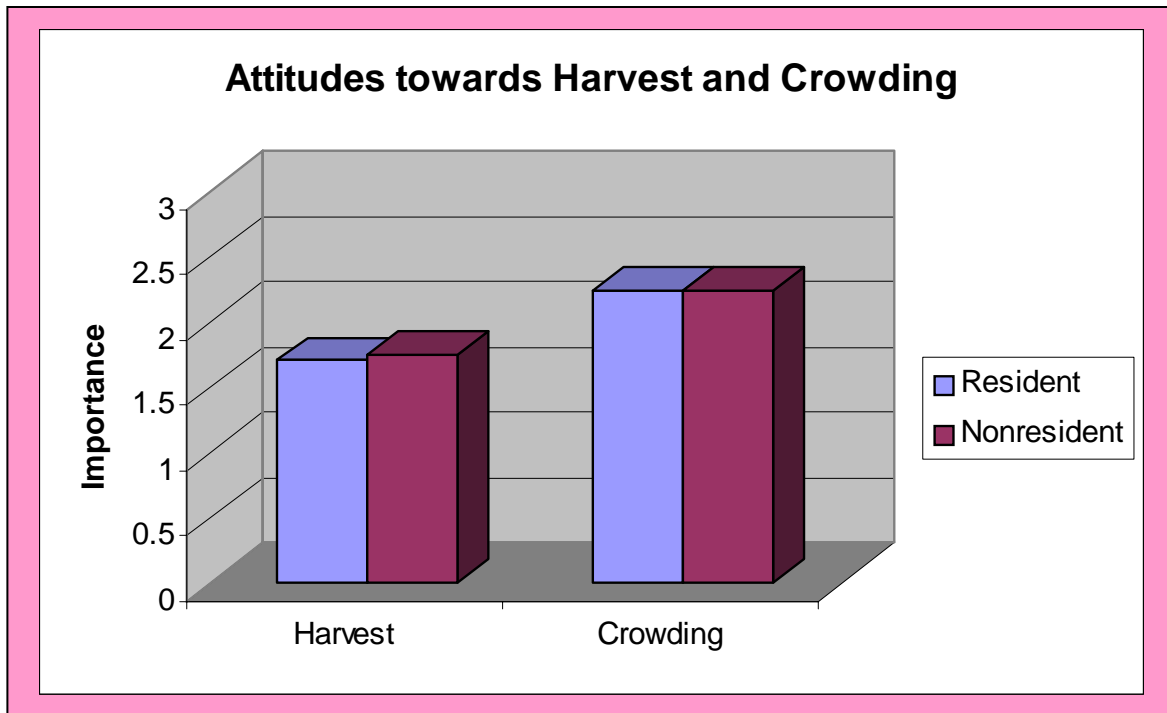


Figure 9. Importance of harvest success and crowding (having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip) to the overall satisfaction of resident and non-resident Black Hills deer hunters (2004). (Scale: 0=not important, 1=slightly important, 2=moderately important and 3=very important.)

Hunters that can be satisfied with their hunting trip without killing a deer were overall more satisfied than hunters for whom killing a deer are more closely tied to satisfaction (this was true for both successful and unsuccessful deer hunters) (Table 77). The more important that Black Hills deer hunting was for the Black Hills deer hunters the more satisfied they were (Table 78).

Nonresidents had higher satisfaction levels than did residents however; satisfaction was not related to residence location within South Dakota (Table 79). The very young (12 – 19) and the very old (80 – 89) tended to be less satisfied with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunt (Table 80). Males were slightly more satisfied than females (Table 81). Hunters most satisfied and most dissatisfied tended to have the most years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 82).

As importance attributed to harvest success increased, hunter satisfaction level decreased (Table 83). This was true for both successful and unsuccessful deer hunters.

In contract, as importance to having an un-crowded, undisturbed deer hunt increased, hunter satisfaction level increased (Table 84). However, this relationship was only true for the hunters that evaluated the crowding conditions for 2004 as "just right" (Table 85).

**Research Question #3A**      What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and success (harvesting a buck or a doe)?

Unsuccessful nature hunters, followed by social hunters, were more satisfied with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experiences than other unsuccessful hunter types (Tables 86 and 87). Unsuccessful meat hunters were the least satisfied hunters. All types of hunters were more satisfied when successful (harvesting a doe or a buck), except for challenge hunters harvesting a doe. Three hunter types (trophy, hunting opportunist and solitude) harvested too few does to make an accurate estimate. This indicates that they probably would not be satisfied with harvesting a doe.

Overall, hunters who harvested a doe were about 10% more satisfied than unsuccessful hunters were and hunters who harvested a buck were about 17% more satisfied than unsuccessful hunters were (Table 86).

Overall, about 70% of the unsuccessful hunters were satisfied but this varies according to type of hunter, from a low of 23% for meat hunters to a high of 75% for nature hunters (Table 87). Overall, 83% of those harvesting a doe were satisfied and 92% of those harvesting a buck were satisfied.

**Research Question #3B**      What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested?

The number of points on harvested whitetail bucks was significantly correlated with satisfaction, however, the relationship was not strong (Tables 88 and 89). The number of points on harvested mule deer bucks was not significantly correlated. When combined (whitetail and mule deer) the number of points on harvested bucks was slightly correlated with satisfaction. Few correlations between satisfaction and number of antler points on bucks harvested were significant for any of the hunter types (partly due to small sample sizes for this analysis) (Table 90).

**Research Question #4**      What is the relationship between years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and various selected parameters measured in this survey (2004)?

A biological fact is that the Black Hills deer herd has experienced a long-term decline and the population is much lower than it was in the long-term past (an estimated 60% decline during the past 40 years). Thus, one variable that may impact hunter opinions and attitudes would be their amount of past Black Hills deer hunting experiences. Hunters with different levels of past Black Hills deer hunting experience may evaluate conditions differently. For this reason, a number of parameters measured in this survey were analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience.

The number of deer seen tended to increase with hunting experience up to those with 11–20 year experience, however, the hunters' evaluations of the number of deer they saw was not related to hunting experience (Table 91). In other words, the more experienced deer hunters actually saw more deer but their evaluation of that number did not increase. This would be expected given the long-term decline in deer population.

On the other hand, the number of bucks and the number of quality bucks seen increased with years of hunting experience up to those with 21–30 years experience along with hunters' evaluation of these parameters (Tables 92 and 93). These findings would be expected given the change in deer management. The change in deer management was not designed to increase the overall Black Hills deer population but rather to increase the proportion of bucks in the population.

There was a very strong relationship between years of experience and importance of Black Hills deer hunting (Table 94). The Black Hills deer season was most important to the Black Hills deer hunters with the most Black Hills deer hunting experience.

Overall harvest success<sup>1</sup> was not related to years of experience however, buck harvest vs. doe harvest was significantly related (Table 95). Hunters harvesting a buck had significantly more experience than did hunters harvesting a doe.

More experienced hunters were more likely to report that there were not enough hunters (Table 96), possibly due to their slightly stronger dislike of the change in deer management.<sup>9</sup> The less experienced hunters were more likely to feel crowded (Table 96).

Solitude hunters had the most experience and meat hunters the least amount of experience (Table 66). Satisfied hunters had slightly more experience than did the dissatisfied hunters, although the relationship was not significant (Table 97). Less experienced hunters tended to be more moderate in their satisfaction level.

Generally, more experienced hunters could be satisfied with their overall hunting trip even if they did not kill a deer compared to the less experienced deer hunters (Table 98). Conversely, filling their deer tag was more important to less experienced hunters compared to more experienced hunters (Tables 98 and 99). More experienced hunters were more interested in hunting for a buck and hunting for a large buck compared to less experienced hunters (Table 98).

Having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was more important to less experienced hunters compared to more experienced hunters (Table 100).

As expected, more experienced hunters were older (Table 101). And, females had less Black Hills deer hunting experience than males (Table 102).

**Research Question #5**

Developing a mountain lion attitude model – What are the important variables for understanding Black Hills deer hunters' attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota (2004)?

Three general attitude models towards mountain lions were initially produced – a 3-cluster, 4-cluster, and 5-cluster solution model using a k-means cluster analysis of the 12 general attitude questions (Appendix A, Questions 21a – 21l) (Table 103). The three models were compared with results from a South Dakota general public survey conducted in 2002<sup>10</sup> (Table 104). Overall, the 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters tended to be slightly more negative towards mountain lion compared to the 2002 general public

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<sup>9</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2002. 2001 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-6-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>10</sup> Gigliotti, L. M., D. Fecske, J. Jenks. 2002. Mountain Lions in South Dakota: A Public Opinion Survey – 2002. Report ID# HD-9-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

sample. The 2002 general public sample included about 35% big game hunters. The 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters were slightly more negative towards mountain lions compared to the 2002 big game hunters (Table 105). In the 2002 sample big game hunters were statistically similar to the non-big game hunters in their attitudes towards mountain lions. This suggests that the differences between the 2002 general public sample and the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters is mainly due to the time difference (2002 vs. 2004).

The mean attitude for each of the twelve items in the general mountain lion attitude model is profiled for each group in the model (Table 106). "Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me" and "the presence of mountain lions in South Dakota increases my overall quality of life" had the highest correlation with the mountain lion attitude model.

The mountain lion model is very good at predicting general enjoyment of mountain lions in South Dakota and fairly good at predicting the amount of worry about mountain lions (Table 107). About 25% of the people in the strongly pro-lion group worry about problems caused by mountain lions compared to about 95% of the strongly contra-lion group.

There was not a strong relationship between the mountain lion attitude model and the incidence of observing mountain lions or signs of mountain lions (Table 108). Thus, personal interactions (non-threatening) with mountain lions do not seem to impact general attitudes towards mountain lions. However, peoples' interpretation of mountain lion interactions probably does strongly influence attitudes. For example, level of concern for safety related to mountain lions was strongly related to the mountain lion attitude model (Table 109). The strongly pro-lion group had very low levels of concern compared to the strongly contra-lion group.

Concern about the impact of mountain lions on the deer population was strongly related to the mountain lion attitude model (Table 110). Only 16.5% of the strongly pro-lion group felt that mountain lions should be controlled for the purpose of increasing deer hunting opportunities compared to 90% of the contra-lion group.

Overall, there was high support for a mountain lion season if the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest ranging from 81% support from the strongly pro-lion group to 92% for the strongly contra-lion group (Table 111). Actually, the slightly pro-lion group had the highest level of support for a mountain lion season (93.5%).

Overall, all mountain lion attitude groups had a relatively similar level of interest in hunting mountain lions (Table 112). The slightly pro-lion group had the highest percent "very interested" in hunting mountain lions (42.3%) and the neutral group the lowest percent "very interested" in hunting mountain lions (34.4%).

Overall, there was a significant relationship between the motivational deer hunter model and the mountain lion attitude model (Tables 113-A and 113-B). Nature hunters tended to be more pro-lion and the social hunters tended to be more contra-lion. One other notable difference was a slightly larger percent of trophy hunters associated with the strongly contra-lion group.

Gender was not related to the mountain lion attitude model (Table 114). However, age was slightly related to the mountain lion attitude model (Table 115). The strongly contra-lion group had a higher mean age compared to all the other mountain lion attitude groups. Black Hills residents were much more favorable towards mountain lions compared to other West River residents and East River residents (Table 116). West River residents, excluding Black Hills residents, were slightly more negative towards mountain lions compared to East River residents.

**Research Question #6**

Interest in a mountain lion season<sup>11</sup> – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota?

Overall, all mountain lion attitude groups had a relatively similar level of interest in hunting mountain lions (Table 112). Trophy hunters had the strongest interest in hunting mountain lions by far compared to the other hunter types and solitude hunters the lowest level of interest (Table 117).

Males had slightly higher interest in hunting mountain lions compared to females (Table 118). Younger hunters had higher interest in hunting mountain lions compared to older hunters (Table 119). South Dakota resident hunters had higher interest in hunting mountain lions compared to nonresident hunters (Table 46). However, South Dakota residence (Black Hills, West River, and East River) was not significantly related to interest in hunting mountain lions (Table 120).

As expected, general support for a mountain lion season was very strongly related to interest in hunting mountain lions (Table 121).

**Research Question #7**      General attitude towards a mountain lion season<sup>12</sup> – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' general attitude towards a mountain lion season?

Attitude towards a mountain lion season was significantly related to the mountain lion attitude model, but the relationship was not linear (Table 111). However, as would be expected, support for a mountain lion season was very strongly related to interest in hunting mountain lions (Table 121).

Male hunters had higher support for a mountain lion season than did female hunters (Table 122). Younger hunters had higher support for a mountain lion season compared to older hunters (Table 123). Residence (in-state vs. out-of-state and residence within South Dakota) was not significantly related to general support for a mountain lion season (Table 124).

Trophy hunters tended to be more favorable towards a mountain lion season and solitude hunters the least favorable, however, the overall relationship was not significant (Table 125).

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<sup>11</sup> If South Dakota had a mountain lion season, how interested would you be to have an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota?

<sup>12</sup> I would support a mountain lion season if the state acquires data that the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest.

## **Discussion**

**Satisfaction.** The most important finding is that satisfaction of Black Hills deer hunters has improved since the change in deer management in 1996. Satisfaction level for 2004 for residents was 83% satisfied and only 10% dissatisfied and for nonresidents it was 93% satisfied and only 5% dissatisfied. This is the highest level of satisfaction measured in the past ten years and mean satisfaction level is 27% and 23% (resident and nonresident; respectively) higher than the satisfaction level measured in 1995 (before the Black Hills deer management change). An improvement in hunter satisfaction was the overall goal for the management change. This is particularly difficult when dealing with a long-term declining deer population. To accomplish this managers need a better understanding of all the factors that contribute to a satisfying hunting experience for Black Hills deer hunters.

Harvest success is important for the satisfaction of Black Hills deer hunters (overall, harvesting a doe increased satisfaction by 10% and harvesting a buck by 17%) but the relationship is partly dependent upon hunter type. Harvest success was least important for the satisfaction of nature, social, and solitude hunters and most important for the satisfaction of meat and trophy hunters (the other hunter types tended to fall somewhere in the middle on the importance of harvest success to satisfaction). However, harvest success was not the best predictor of satisfaction. Other success-related variables were stronger predictors of satisfaction; namely, hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen, number of deer seen and "quality" of bucks seen. In other words, not all hunters need to actually harvest a deer to be satisfied as evidenced by the fact that about 70% of the unsuccessful hunters were satisfied (although overall satisfaction of Black Hills deer hunters increased to about 83% when harvesting a doe and 92% when harvesting a buck).

Just feeling that they saw an adequate number of deer, bucks or large bucks is more important to the satisfaction of Black Hills deer hunters than actually getting a deer every year. However, each hunter has a different evaluation of what is an adequate number of deer, bucks and large bucks. The important finding is that hunters' evaluations of these parameters have been improving since the change in Black Hills deer management. Since first measured in 1997, hunters perceived a 35% increase in the



## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

number of deer seen, a 31% increase in the number of bucks seen, and a 20% increase in the quality of bucks seen. Also, from 1996 to 2004 hunters had a 17% increase in antler points for harvested whitetail bucks and a 19% increase for mule deer bucks.

Another assumption about satisfaction is that the bigger the buck the more satisfied the hunter. Unfortunately, this is a difficult hypothesis to test using empirical data because many hunters won't shoot a buck that they would not at least be partly satisfied with getting. The same can be said for harvesting a doe. In this study a number of hunters reported that they would pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to their standards. However, the survey results did show a slight positive correlation between the number of points on harvested bucks and satisfaction level.

These results strongly suggest that the key to maintaining or further increasing satisfaction will be in improving the Black Hills deer population. However, it is important to note that the results of these findings are probably strongly linked to what is currently happening to the Black Hills deer herd. Due to habitat changes and other causes, the Black Hills deer herd has experienced a long-term decline with some recent improvements. Hunters have perceived this change to the point where it strongly affects their satisfaction. For example, even in a declining deer population situation some hunters will have a good hunting experience by seeing lots of deer and or bucks while others will have a poor season, thus the empirical data will reveal a strong relationship between these variables and satisfaction. Because hunters have perceived a decline in the quality of deer hunting in the recent past and have evaluated this as a significant problem that should be addressed this issue is the most salient and thus has a significant impact on hunters' overall satisfaction levels, especially in light of the changes brought about by the change in Black Hills deer management.

Another frequent variable often reported as important to a quality hunting experience is crowding. Crowding was significantly related to satisfaction in this study. Hunters reporting that the degree of crowding was "just right" were the most satisfied and as hunters' degree of perceived crowding increased their satisfaction level decreased. However, the relationship was not as strong as success-related variables in this study largely because the deer management change in 1996 produced a large improvement by reducing crowding conditions. Before the change in Black Hills deer management in

1996 that limited the numbers of deer hunters, crowding seemed to be a common complaint. It is likely that had this study been conducted in 1995, crowding may have played a more significant role in predicting satisfaction. The salience of a problem will likely have a major role in overall satisfaction. At 1999 – 2004 deer hunter numbers (7,830; 7,921; 6,707; 6,449; 6,438; and 7,346 licenses, respectively), very few hunters reported feeling crowded. It is very likely that this improvement in crowding conditions is responsible for some of the improvement in overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer hunting following the change in deer management. With the current deer population, the 2004 level of hunters in terms of crowding may be just about optimal. This year's study (2004) did find that hunters felt that crowding (having an un-crowded, un-disturbed hunting trip) was more important (18% for residents and 17% for non-residents) to their overall satisfaction than harvest success. Having an un-crowded hunting experience was most important to the solitude hunters and least important to the social hunters (about a 13% difference in rated importance between these two extremes).

In terms of crowding, for this Black Hills deer hunting situation there are two possible reasons for why hunters may choose the “not enough hunters” category in describing the degree of crowding they experienced. One reason is that when lots of hunters are in the woods it keeps the deer moving and increases a hunter's chances of seeing more deer. Another reason may be simply a backlash against the management change that limited the number of licenses available. Some members of groups may not have received a license to hunt, so the “not enough hunters” response on an agency sponsored survey may have been an attempt to influence future allotments of licenses.

Remember, crowding is a variable measured subjectively by the hunters themselves, it does not reflect the actual number (density) of encounters with hunters. It is likely that hunters seek out hunting conditions in terms of degree of crowding, whenever possible, to meet their needs.<sup>13</sup> For example, both nature and solitude hunters may seek out scenic, secluded areas, however, the solitude hunters may be more impacted by encounters with other hunters in such areas than the nature hunters.

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<sup>13</sup> Graefe, A.R., Vaske, J.J., and Kuss, F.R. 1984. Social carrying capacity: An integration and synthesis of twenty years of research. *Leisure Sciences*, 6(4), 395-431.

Also, one might assume that social hunters would not be affected by crowding. This may not be the case. We should not confuse the label, “social,” to mean that these hunters use the hunting experience to meet new people. Social hunters enjoy sharing the experience with friends and family members, but can easily feel crowded by strangers. Actually, because of group size, social hunters may experience more opportunities for crowding if just some of their members experience crowding and then share their frustrations with other members of their group.

Another variable affecting satisfaction is one’s attitude towards the change in Black Hills deer management systems. While the management change was favored by about 2-to-1 this still leaves a number of hunters that were opposed to the change. This change was very controversial and it even affected some hunters’ overall satisfaction with their Black Hills deer hunting experience. Over time hunters’ opinions have been changing, some change due to the positive effects in the deer population structure and less crowded hunting conditions and some change due to hunter recruitment. New Black Hills deer hunters that have no hunting experience with the old, traditional management system are much more favorable towards the current management system. In 2001 (five years after the management change), attitude towards the management system had about an overall 7% effect on satisfaction with one’s hunting experience—those opposed to the change were less satisfied than those that like the change in deer management systems.<sup>14</sup> This small effect on satisfaction should continue to decrease over time.

Another factor that is related to a quality hunting experience is aesthetics. The 1999 study of Black Hills deer hunters<sup>15</sup> found that most hunters felt that the Black Hills offered this quality and for some hunters this factor is enough to produce a satisfying hunt. For example, for some hunters, and especially the nature hunters, this factor alone was enough to produce a satisfying hunting experience. In other word, just getting an opportunity to hunt is enough. These hunters are satisfied year after year regardless of whether or not they harvest a deer.

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<sup>14</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2002. 2001 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-6-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>15</sup> Gigliotti, L., P. Backman, J. Jenks, and D. Hubbard. 2000. 1999 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID#: HD-3-00.SAM. S. D. Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

Another factor evaluated in this study was the importance of Black Hills deer hunting to the hunter. The more important Black Hills deer hunting was to the hunter the more satisfied the hunter was with their hunting experience. It seems that some hunters apply for a Black Hills deer hunting license just as a back-up in case they do not draw a deer license in one of the other South Dakota deer seasons. The drawing for the Black Hills deer season proceeds the drawing of two other very popular deer seasons; namely, West River and East River deer seasons. A change in drawing procedures that would get more of the limited Black Hills deer licenses into the hands of hunters that most appreciated them would increase overall satisfaction slightly. The 2003 study<sup>16</sup> identified that about 67% of the Black Hills deer hunters considered the Black Hills deer season as their most preferred South Dakota limited deer season. The study also found that the more important that both Black Hills deer hunting and deer hunting in general was to the hunter the more easily they were satisfied with their Black Hills deer hunting opportunity.

Can satisfaction continue to improve? Actually, given the status of the Black Hills deer population and the mix of hunter types satisfaction is probably about as high as we can expect. The satisfaction level for 2004 is very good and is possibly the highest that can be achieved under current conditions without additional changes, such as a change in the license drawing system. Under current conditions a good average target for Black Hills deer hunting would be trying to maintain at least 75% satisfied and not more than 10% dissatisfied. At this point satisfaction levels will probably fluctuate year-to-year based on deer population status and weather conditions. The goal at this point will be to try to maintain this level of satisfaction. This does not mean that little adjustments or considerations of new ideas should not be explored, as the maximum level of satisfaction is always 100%.

**Hunter Typology–Motivations of Black Hills Deer Hunters.** This study used hunters' reasons for deer hunting in the Black Hills to segment hunters. Hunters were asked to rate the importance of eight possible reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting on an eight-point scale of 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important). Hunters were

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<sup>16</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2004. 2003 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-3-04.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

then asked to select their top reason for why they like Black Hills deer hunting. This latter question was used to segment Black Hills deer hunters. This study makes an assumption, based on the extensive literature on hunter segmentation of the existence of different types of hunters, that hunters have a dominant motivation for hunting, hunters can identify their dominant motivation for hunting and that a hunter's dominant motivation for hunting is a useful segmentation method.

In 2000 the category –**opportunistic hunter**–was added to the list of reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting. The opportunistic hunter category was added to identify the number of hunters that hunt deer in the Black Hills mainly as a way to increase their overall deer hunting opportunities.

The results from this study suggest that this methodology did produce a better overall understanding of Black Hills deer hunters. The different types of hunters each demonstrated a unique set of characteristics that would be expected based on hunters' dominant motivation for hunting. All hunter types had the highest rating of the importance of the motivation representing their dominant motivation. Three motivations–social, nature and excitement–seem to be highly important for all types of hunters. These can be considered fundamental reasons for deer hunting. These three hunter types are also the largest three segments. Two types of hunters were found to be very distinct–**meat** hunters and **trophy** hunters. All other types of hunters rate meat and trophy reasons relatively low in importance. Meat hunters even rate trophy reasons low in importance and trophy hunters rate meat reasons low in importance. Thus, the two types of hunters most motivated by harvest success, meat hunters and trophy hunters, are at odds with each other, rating each other's reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting low in importance.

The solitude hunters are a relatively small group (2.7% in 2004) and are unique in placing a high value on solitude and a low value on social reasons for hunting. Motivational research would suggest that these hunters might have very busy home or work life styles for which hunting provides temporary escape.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Knopf, R.C., Driver, B.L., and Bassett, J.R. 1997. Motivations for fishing. Transactions of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, 38, 191-204.

Some of the unique characteristics of each hunter type are listed below in this summary (results based on this year's and previous years' studies):

**Nature Hunters (29.3%):** A relatively high percent of unsuccessful (in terms of harvesting a deer) nature hunters can be satisfied probably because the aesthetic factor is most important to this group and most of these hunters feel that the Black Hills environment adequately provides for this factor. Getting a deer is not a very important factor in producing a satisfying hunting experience for the nature hunters. Nature hunters had the highest importance rating of all eight hunter-types for, "beauty of the area" and "observing other wildlife while hunting." Nature hunters were relatively more favorable towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types.

**Social Hunters (27.9%):** Social hunters had the highest tolerance for crowding. The social aspect of hunting is most important to this group. Harvest success is relatively low in importance to this group. Social hunters had the highest percentage of group hunting and had the highest percentage of participation in organized deer drives.<sup>18</sup> Social reasons for hunting were slightly more important to nonresidents than to residents. "Maintaining special traditions" and "companionship of friends/family" were far more important to this group compared to all the other hunter-types. Social hunters tended to be more overall negative towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types.

**Excitement Hunters (18.0%):** Excitement hunters were the most difficult to characterize. Hunting for them is just plain exciting and this is more of an internal feeling rather than a single external factor. For all the variables measured in this study excitement hunters tended not to show any extremes at either end that would lend to further description of this group of hunters. In other words, these hunters tended to be somewhere in the middle range of all the variables tested in this study. On many variables (but not all as there are clearly some distinct differences) excitement hunters

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<sup>18</sup> Gigliotti, L., P. Backman, J. Jenks, and D. Hubbard. 2000. 1999 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID#: HD-3-00.SAM. S. D. Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

were somewhat similar to challenge hunters. This makes sense in that one component of having a challenging experience would be to produce excitement.

**Meat Hunters (7.3%):** Meat hunters had the highest interest level in getting a deer and they were a relatively successful group, but had the lowest percent of buck harvest. Meat hunters were the least satisfied if unsuccessful. They were the least interested in buck hunting or getting a large buck. They also had the highest percentage of hunters getting the 01/04/06-type license (any deer license).<sup>19</sup> Meat hunters had the highest focus on body size as a measure of a “quality” deer while all the other hunter types focused on antler size parameters. Meat hunters also had the highest percentage of female hunters, and had the smallest percentage of nonresidents. Meat hunters had the lowest participation in other deer seasons, other big game (excluding deer) seasons, and other types of hunting (e.g., small game, waterfowl, etc.).<sup>20</sup> Meat hunters had the highest preference for the Black Hills deer season probably due to the fact that a high percent of them only participate in that one deer season and a high percent live locally. Also, resident meat hunters had the second lowest mean expenditures for the 2002 Black Hills deer season, and the lowest estimated value for their Black Hills deer license and the lowest mean willingness-to-pay value.<sup>21</sup> Meat hunters tended to have fewer motivations compared to most of the other hunter-types, being mainly motivated by early success and having an easy hunt. Meat hunters had the next to lowest level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions.

**Challenge Hunters (6.5%):** Challenge hunters were somewhat similar to the excitement hunters on many characteristics. They were also somewhat similar to trophy hunters but rather than focusing on the product of the hunt, a “trophy,” they tended to be more focused on the process of the hunt and desiring that this process be “challenging.” For example, challenge hunters have a high desire to get a nice buck but are much more

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<sup>19</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2002. 2001 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-6-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>20</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2002. 2001 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-6-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

<sup>21</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2003. 2002 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-4-03.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

willing to hunt harder to be successful. Unlike trophy and meat hunters who want an easy hunt and to be successful early in the season, challenge hunters want their hunt to be challenging and being successful early in the season would tend to mean that their hunt was not challenging. Challenge hunters don't want easy access or to hunt near a road and would strongly prefer to hunt in areas with restricted vehicle access. Challenge hunters had relatively high use of archery and muzzleloader equipment for hunting deer.

**Trophy Hunters (5.2%):** Trophy hunters were the least satisfied with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunt, possibly because Black Hills deer hunting does not produce very many large bucks. Trophy hunters had a high buck-to-doe harvest ratio (87% bucks harvested). Trophy hunters had the highest interest in buck hunting and in getting a large buck and they had the second highest interest in being successful at filling their deer tag. Trophy hunters had a high preference for the buck-only (52) license. Trophy hunters also listed the highest number of points necessary for their definition of a "quality" buck.<sup>22</sup> Trophy hunters and meat hunters were relatively similar on many variables, particularly being very motivated by success (getting a deer), but were widely different on their preference for the type of deer. Also, trophy hunters tended to be a bit more willing to hunt harder for their deer than were meat hunters. Trophy hunters tended to be more overall negative towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types, but had the highest level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions.

**Opportunistic Hunters (3.1%):** Opportunistic hunters' main motivation was for additional deer hunting opportunities. Opportunistic hunters were relatively similar to meat hunters on many variables tested (although a little more interested in buck hunting compared to the meat hunters), suggesting that for this group it is not only an opportunity to get in some addition deer hunting it is also an opportunity to get another deer to eat. Opportunistic hunters were relatively focused on easy hunting, but overall less focused on exclusively Black Hills deer hunting. Opportunistic hunters are strongly interested in deer hunting in general, but had a relatively low rating of importance for Black Hills deer

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<sup>22</sup> Gigliotti, L., P. Backman, J. Jenks, and D. Hubbard. 2000. 1999 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID#: HD-3-00.SAM. S. D. Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.



hunting, the least amount of years experience hunting deer in the Black Hills, and they had the lowest percent picking Black Hills as their most preferred South Dakota limited deer season. Opportunistic hunters had the highest participation in other deer seasons. The opportunistic hunters were relatively opposed in general to a new deer application process.<sup>23</sup>

**Solitude Hunters (2.7%):** Solitude hunters were the smallest group of Black Hills deer hunters in 2004 and are somewhat the opposite of the social hunters on their most dominant characteristic, namely solitude. Solitude hunters are somewhat interested in buck hunting and interested in getting a large buck, however, satisfaction was far less tied to harvest success compared to the trophy hunters. By far, having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was most important to the solitude hunters. Solitude hunters had the lowest interest in hunting in a group and the lowest interest in road hunting or hunting near a road. Solitude hunters are strongly motivated by getting far away from other hunters and like to have lots of days to go hunting. Solitude hunters were most favorable towards mountain lions in South Dakota compared to many of the other hunter types and had the lowest level of interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions.

In summary, the behaviors and attitudes of each of the hunter types seem to logically fit what one would expect to find based on the dominant characteristic of each group. This suggests that this hunter-typology model is a valid tool for understanding Black Hills deer hunters.

**Effects of the Black Hills Deer Management Change–Trends.** In addition to days hunted and harvest success information collected in the regular harvest surveys process, eight different hunter parameters have been identified and measured to evaluate Black Hills deer hunting from the hunters' perspective. These eight parameters were:

1. total number of deer seen by the hunter during the season (1998-2004) (see Tables 17 and 17-A),

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<sup>23</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2004. 2003 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-3-04.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

2. total number of bucks seen by the hunter during the season (1998-2004) (see Tables 17 and 17-B),
3. total number of quality bucks seen by the hunter during the season (1998-2004) (see Tables 17 and 17-C),
4. hunters' evaluation of the number of deer they saw during the season (1997-2004) (see Tables 21-A and 21-B),
5. hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks they saw during the season (1997-2004) (see Tables 21-A and 21-B),
6. hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks they saw during the season (1997-2004) (see Tables 21-A and 21-B),
7. hunters perception of crowding during the season (1997-2004) (see Table 23), and
8. hunters' overall satisfaction level with the deer season (1995-2004) (see Tables 16A and 16-B).

All these parameters show that deer hunting from the hunters' perspective has improved with 2004 being a very good year. Hunters are seeing more deer, more bucks and more quality bucks and evaluating the Black Hills deer season as better on these three parameters. Most hunters feel that the number of total hunters is "just right—not crowded," and most importantly, overall satisfaction has improved significantly. All these measurements point to the conclusion to stay with the current deer management system for the Black Hills.

In addition, the 2000 through 2004 surveys have shown that while filling one's deer tag is important to many Black Hills deer hunters, most can still be satisfied if unsuccessful at getting a deer. The linear-regression model shows that hunters' evaluation of the deer population based on their evaluation of the numbers of deer and bucks seen and buck quality is a better predictor of satisfaction than actual harvest success or actual numbers of deer, bucks or quality bucks seen. In other words, if hunters perceive that their chances were good at getting a deer (of the type they were looking for) they can be satisfied, even if unsuccessful at actually getting a deer. Also, the survey shows that most hunters feel that having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip is more important to their overall satisfaction than harvest success. Thus, some of the improvement in hunter satisfaction may be attributed to reducing crowding rather than improvements in the deer herd structure (more larger bucks). Regardless of the reasons, the current deer management system seems to provide for a "quality" deer hunting experience for most deer hunters.

One recommendation will be to continue monitoring the Black Hills deer season measuring these same eight hunter-perspective parameters and hunter-typology model as well as continuing to study various aspects of what makes for a “quality” hunting experience in the Black Hills. First, it will be important to know the stability of the improvement achieved under the current deer management system. Will the improvement continue, level off or decline over time? Second, while we have gained much understanding of Black Hills deer hunters and deer hunting through the surveys conducted over the past ten years, there is still much more to learn.

**Importance of Deer Hunting.** The importance of Black Hills deer hunting has been measured for the past eight years (1997 – 2004) (*see Table 31*) and has been found to be significantly related to satisfaction. The more important that Black Hills deer hunting was to the hunter the more satisfied they were with their hunting experience. Measuring this parameter is important when dealing with limited licenses. When licenses are limited the highest social value is achieved when the licenses are allocated to the hunters that place the most value on the license. While there is no process-system available to identify and allocate licenses to the hunters with the highest value for a Black Hills deer license the importance measure used in this survey can be used to evaluate any possible future changes in the license allocation system in terms of overall social value achieved. In addition, the 2003 survey included some additional questions related to measuring the importance of deer hunting to the hunter. These questions measure the importance of deer hunting in general in terms of how much hunters would miss deer hunting and the relative amount, types and suitability of substitutes for deer hunting. These variables would be useful in evaluating the social benefits of any future change in the license allocation process affecting Black Hills deer licenses. Based on the 2003 survey findings, one benefit that would be expected from changing to a system that would allocate licenses to a higher portion of hunters that highly value the license should be an increase in overall satisfaction.

**Threats to the Future of the Black Hills Deer Management Change.** While hunter support for the management change was high from the beginning and has continued to grow as hunters witness positive effects of the change, a number of people are and probably will always be opposed to the change. Attempts to return to the old, traditional, over-the-counter sales with unlimited licenses will likely continue for a number of years. The past couple of years have seen attempts to make such a change via the legislative process. The key to maintaining the current preferred deer management system will be to continue monitoring the Black Hills deer season in order to maintain a database that demonstrates the positive effects of the change. And, if necessary, make changes or improvements to maintain or improve hunters' satisfaction with the management of the Black Hills deer herd.

The biggest threat to the current deer management system will not be those currently opposed to the management system but rather a result of its own success. For the first three years following the change in deer management the number of licenses available were able to meet all or most of the demand for licenses. However, the popularity of Black Hills deer hunting is growing and applications have increased greatly. For the past four years the demand for licenses was much greater than the supply. In 1999, 1,735 residents applicants and 552 nonresident applicants did not get a Black Hills deer license in the first drawing period. In 2000, 2,401 residents applicants and 609 nonresident applicants did not get a Black Hills deer license in the first drawing period. In 2001, 4,326 resident applicants and 631 nonresident applicants did not get their first choice Black Hills deer license in the first drawing period. In 2002 this number was up to 4,783 resident applicants and 850 nonresident applicants did not get their Black Hills deer license in the first drawing period. In 2003 this number was at 4,999 resident applicants and 879 nonresident applicants did not get their Black Hills deer license in the first drawing period. And in 2004 this number was at 5,639 (about 84% of the total licenses available) resident applicants and 1,178 (about 220% of the total licenses available) nonresident applicants did not get their Black Hills deer license in the first drawing period.

In 2002 through 2004 in some units, some resident and nonresident hunters with a preference point did not get their first choice license during the drawing period. Of

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

course, some of the unsuccessful hunters received a second choice license and all unsuccessful hunters received a preference point for next year's drawing. If popularity of the Black Hills continues making it harder to get a Black Hills deer license hunters will want some kind of solution.

In fact, these past couple of years seem to have been a wake-up call as many unsuccessful applicants have expressed dissatisfaction. However, the call was not necessarily for a return to the old, traditional management system with unlimited, over-the-counter license sales, as many expressed satisfaction with the results of the management change. Instead, many are suggesting "solutions" that ensure that "they" get a license at the expense of some other group. One of the main examples was a strong backlash against nonresidents. This is an identifiable group that residents can blame for why they did not get a license. However, in 2000 if all nonresident licenses were sold to residents it would have only given licenses to less than 25% of the residents that were unsuccessful in the drawing. In 2001 if all nonresident licenses were sold to residents it would have only given licenses to less than 12% of the residents that were unsuccessful in the drawing. In 2002 if all nonresident licenses were sold to residents it would have only given licenses to about 10% (476 nonresident Black Hills deer licenses were available and there were 4,669 residents that did not get their 2002 first choice Black Hills deer license) of the residents that were unsuccessful in the drawing. In 2003 if all nonresident licenses were sold to residents it would have only given licenses to about 9% (472 nonresident Black Hills deer licenses were available and there were 4,999 residents that did not get their 2003 first choice Black Hills deer license) of the residents that were unsuccessful in the drawing. And in 2004 if all nonresident licenses were sold to residents it would have only given licenses to about 9.5% (536 nonresident Black Hills deer licenses were available and there were 5,639 residents that did not get their 2004 first choice Black Hills deer license) of the residents that were unsuccessful in the drawing.

Other suggestions have been made to first sell only to Black Hills residents, older hunters first, young hunters first, families with kids first, or to greatly increase the price of the license to cut down on demand (*see Appendix B*). In addition, residents have made requests for additional nonresident licenses for economic reasons.

From a psychological and sociological perspective the fairest method of allocating limited deer licenses would be to distribute them to hunters according to the overall importance of Black Hills deer hunting to the hunter. The 2000-2003 surveys of Black Hills deer hunters collected some information to show that Black Hills deer hunting actually was not a very important activity for some of the participants. Unfortunately identifying those hunters that are worthy of getting a Black Hills deer license based on psychological importance to the hunter is not an easy task. However, there may be a process that would allow hunters to self-select the importance of Black Hills deer hunting against the importance of other limited South Dakota deer seasons. Previous surveys identified that many Black Hills deer hunters also participated in other types of limited deer hunting. In fact, only 60% of the 2000 Black Hills deer hunters, 62% of the 2001 and 2002 Black Hills deer hunters, and 67% of the 2003 Black Hills deer hunters picked Black Hills deer hunting as their preferred South Dakota deer hunting season (did not include archery deer because that is not a limited deer season).

A lottery drawing system could be developed to include all limited deer seasons into a single process. The seasons would still be distinct and it would involve no change in the number and type of tags allotted per various units or the process used to determine the number and type of tags per various units. However the drawing system and application form would change drastically. Such a change may be more controversial than the change in Black Hills deer management, however, the principal behind the change is clearly a far fairer allocation of limited deer licenses on a statewide basis.

A simple description of a process would be an application form that included all the limited deer seasons on the same form. Hunters must then select the deer seasons that they would like to hunt and put them in order of personal importance. The drawing system would first select hunters in random order and then would attempt to give each hunter their first choice hunt in the order they were selected before giving any hunter a second deer license. If a hunter had selected a license that was sold out it would then attempt to give that hunter his/her second choice and that hunter would then receive a preference point for not getting their first choice. Based on the information collected in the 2000-2003 surveys of Black Hills deer hunters such a process may have given most of the hunters that picked the Black Hills as their most preferred deer hunt a license.

**Mountain Lions in the Black Hills.** In the 2003 survey some hunters provided comments about mountain lions and expressed concern that mountain lions may be impacting the deer population or expressed a desire for a hunting season. As a result, three pages of questions about mountain lions were added to this year's Black Hills deer hunter survey (2004).

Black Hills deer hunters are very aware of mountain lions in South Dakota and a significant majority (about 70%) of the resident Black Hills deer hunters enjoy having mountain lions in South Dakota. However, many hunters (61%) also worry about problems caused by mountain lions. Most Black Hills deer hunters (87%) would support a mountain lion season (only 6% opposed) and about 74% had some level of interest in hunting mountain lions.

Positive attitudes towards mountain lions seems to have slipped a little (and negative attitudes increased a little) between 2002 and 2004. This evaluation is based on comparing big game hunters' attitudes towards mountain lions in 2002 with Black Hills deer hunters' attitudes in 2004. One reason for the attitude change may be to an increased perception of mountain lion abundance as the result of both increased incidences and the subsequent media press that mountain lion incidents receive. There was an especially high number of mountain lion reports and media coverage of mountain lions in 2004 (Figure 10).

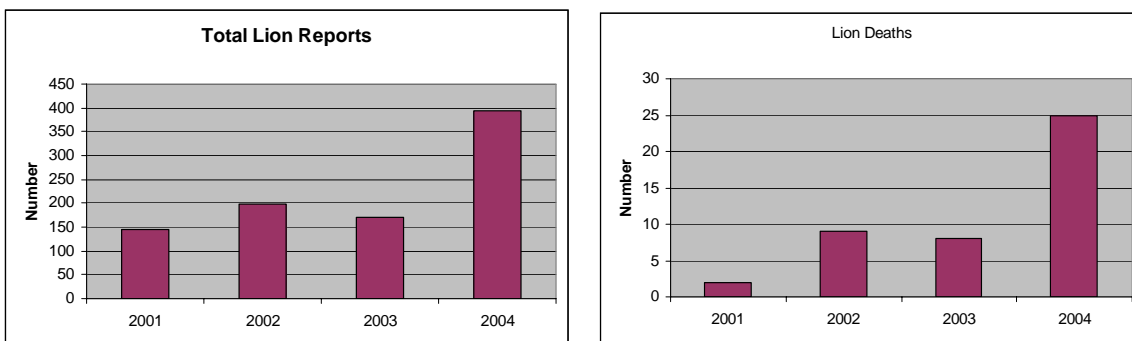


Figure 10. Mountain lion reports filed and known mortalities in South Dakota 2001-04.

Hunters' support for a mountain lion season does not seem to stem from a dislike of mountain lions. In fact, Black Hills deer hunters have relatively strong support for mountain lions and many expressed a desire to see a mountain lion as well as satisfaction with just knowing that they exist in the wild in South Dakota. Support for a mountain lion season seems to stem largely from the perception that there many mountain lions and that some could be removed via hunting and that would reduce the problems caused by too many mountain lions in the Black Hills. A frequent comment by hunters was that if there was a mountain lion season that the opportunity should be affordable for the average hunter.

South Dakota State University has been conducting research on the mountain lion in the Black Hills since 1998 (funded by a grant from the Game, Fish and Parks Department). This research estimated that the mountain lion population in the Black Hills was at carrying capacity. Current research is focusing on survival and dispersal of mountain lions in the Black Hills.

A limited harvest of mountain lions would not hurt the population and may actually help maintain a healthy population of mountain lions in the Black Hills. A mountain lion season is being considered for 2005 (final decision will be in August 2005) with a quota of 20 lions. The main goal of this season would be to determine if this limited harvest would reduce the problems and negative incidences caused by mountain lions in South Dakota. A key to maintaining a healthy population of mountain lions in South Dakota will depend on a public that appreciates, understands and supports mountain lions. Limiting problems and negative incidences caused by mountain lions may be necessary for maintaining the current high level of support for mountain lions. This study and the 2002 general public study<sup>24</sup> of attitudes towards mountain lions has generated some evidence that positive attitudes towards mountain lions can slip given increases in the number of problems and negative incidences caused by mountain lions along with extensive media coverage, which can be expected for negative human–lion interactions.

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<sup>24</sup> Gigliotti, L. M., D. Fecske, J. Jenks. 2002. Mountain Lions in South Dakota: A Public Opinion Survey – 2002. Report ID# HD-9-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

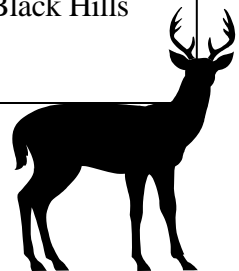


### **The Role of Mountain Lions in the Black Hills Ecosystem – A Hypothesis.**

Testing for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in free-ranging elk and deer in South Dakota began in 1997 after first detecting it in captive elk in South Dakota. The first case of CWD in a free-ranging cervid was detected in 2001. To date (March 31, 2005) a total of 9,046 deer and elk have been tested and 31 cases of CWD positive cervids were found (24 deer and 7 elk). CWD positive cervids appears to remain at a very low rate in South Dakota. CWD infected deer may live for a long time among the deer herd before dying from the disease. CWD infected deer and elk would be more vulnerable to an attack by a mountain lion compared to healthy deer and elk. Mountain lions are not affected by eating CWD positive cervids, mountain lions hunt year-round and one of their favorite prey animals is deer. When CWD was detected in states without mountain lion populations (e.g., Wisconsin and Illinois) the CWD infection rate increased over time at a rate much higher than South Dakota.

A well-known role of predators in the ecosystem is the removal of sick and diseased animals from the population.<sup>25, 26</sup> Given the facts and assumptions listed in the above paragraph, if mountain lions are removing CWD infected deer thereby reducing the time the infected animal remains with other animals it may reduce the spread of CWD in the deer and elk population in South Dakota. If mountain lions are controlling the spread of CWD and other potential wildlife diseases in the deer and elk populations than the value of having a healthy population of mountain lions in the Black Hills is priceless.

Appendix F is a copy of the Report to Survey Participants for the 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey report.



<sup>25</sup> Orr, Robert T. 1976. Vertebrate Biology. W.B. Saunders Company. Philadelphia, PA.

<sup>26</sup> Robinson, William L. and Bolen, Eric G. 1984. Wildlife Ecology and Management. Macmillan Publishing Company. New York.

Appendix G is an excerpt from the 2004 South Dakota Game Report – Big Game Harvest Projects covering the Black Hills (Huxoll, C. 2005. Big Game Harvest Projections – 2004 Annual Report. South Dakota Game Report No. 2005 – 01. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, SD).



**2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry M. Gigliotti*



MOUNTAIN LION



MOUNTAIN LION

## TABLES

### 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

**Licenses:**

**Table 1.** Black Hills deer licenses sold and percent who did not hunt, 2004.

License Type <sup>1</sup>	Number Available		Number Sold			% Didn't Hunt <sup>2</sup>
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident	Total	
<b>400A-52</b>	5,000	400	5,089	400	5,489	5.7%
<b>401A-01</b>	100	8	105	8	113	3.7%
<b>401A-06</b>	400	32	400	32	432	11.8%
<b>402A-01</b>	100	8	104	8	112	6.5%
<b>402A-06</b>	300	24	300	24	324	16.9%
<b>403A-01</b>	100	8	107	8	115	3.2%
<b>403A-06</b>	350	28	350	28	378	10.7%
<b>404A-01</b>	100	8	104	8	112	16.7%
<b>404A-06</b>	250	20	251	20	271	10.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>7,346</b>	<b>7.1%<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup>Type: 01=any deer; 06=antlerless whitetail deer; 52=buck only

<sup>2</sup>Resident and Nonresident combined

<sup>3</sup>Overall average (Residents=7.2%; Nonresidents=6.8%) (Type 01=7.6%; Type 06=12.5%)

**Sample Description (Black Hills 2004 Deer Season):**

**Table 2.** Percent return distribution by unit and license types (2004).

Unit and License Type	Total Return		Usable Return	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>400A-52</b>	1,552	74.9%	1,519	74.9%
<b>401A-01</b>	29	1.4%	27	1.3%
<b>401A-06</b>	121	5.8%	119	5.9%
<b>402A-01</b>	32	1.5%	32	1.6%
<b>402A-06</b>	90	4.3%	90	4.4%
<b>403A-01</b>	32	1.5%	31	1.5%
<b>403A-06</b>	106	5.1%	103	5.1%
<b>404A-01</b>	32	1.5%	31	1.5%
<b>404A-06</b>	77	3.7%	76	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	2,071 <sup>1</sup>	100%	2,028 <sup>1</sup>	100%
<b>Type 52</b>	1,552	74.9%	1,519	74.9%
<b>Type 01</b>	125	6.0%	121	6.0%
<b>Type 06</b>	394	19.0%	388	19.1%

<sup>1</sup>Seven hunters removed their ID number, which was used to identify unit and license type.

**Table 3.** Percent of residents and nonresidents in the sample (2004).<sup>1,2</sup>

RESIDENCE	Total Return <sup>3</sup>		Usable Return <sup>3</sup>	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>S.D. Residents</b>	1,914	92.1%	1,872	92.0%
<b>Nonresidents</b>	164	7.9%	163	8.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,078	100%	2,035	100%

<sup>1</sup>Actual distribution of residents/nonresidents based on total licenses sold was 92.7% residents and 7.3% nonresidents.

<sup>2</sup>Sample size = 2,391 – 16 undeliverable = 2,375 (0.7% undeliverable)

<sup>4</sup>Total return rate: 2,078 / 2,375 = **87.5%** & Usable return rate: 2,035 / 2,375 = **85.7%**

**Table 4.** Nonresident Black Hills deer hunters' home state (2004).

STATE	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>Minnesota</b>	38	27.7%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	21	15.3%
<b>Colorado</b>	18	13.1%
<b>Michigan</b>	8	5.8%
<b>Illinois, Nebraska, Wyoming</b>	6 each	4.4% each
<b>Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania</b>	3 each	2.2% each
<b>California, Florida, Indiana, North Dakota, Texas, Utah</b>	2 each	1.5% each
<b>Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Tennessee</b>	1 each	0.7% each
<b>TOTAL</b>	137	100%

**Table 5.** Resident Black Hills deer hunters' home county (2004).

COUNTY	2004 Black Hills Deer Hunters	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
1. Minnehaha	147	9.1%
2. Pennington	502	31.0%
3. Brown	11	0.7%
4. Beadle	26	1.6%
5. Codington	14	0.9%
6. Brookings	25	1.5%
7. Yankton	29	1.8%
8. Davison	41	2.5%
9. Lawrence	184	11.4%
10. Aurora	16	1.0%
11. Bennett	0	0.0%
12. Bon Homme	4	0.2%
13. Brule	2	0.1%
14. Buffalo	1	0.1%
15. Butte	22	1.4%
16. Campbell	0	0.0%
17. Charles Mix	25	1.5%
18. Clark	0	0.0%
19. Clay	16	1.0%
20. Croson	0	0.0%
21. Custer	109	6.7%
22. Day	4	0.2%
23. Deuel	6	0.4%
24. Dewey	2	0.1%
25. Douglas	8	0.5%
26. Edmunds	0	0.0%
27. Fall River	26	1.6%
28. Faulk	4	0.2%
29. Grant	5	0.3%
30. Gregory	3	0.2%
31. Haakon	8	0.5%
32. Hamlin	5	0.3%
33. Hand	7	0.4%
34. Hanson	8	0.5%
35. Harding	0	0.0%
36. Hughes	25	1.5%
37. Hutchinson	13	0.8%
38. Hyde	1	0.1%
39. Jackson	4	0.2%
40. Jerauld	1	0.1%

Table continued on next page.

**Table 5.** Continued...Resident Black Hills deer hunters' home county (2004).

COUNTY	2004 Black Hills Deer Hunters	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
41. Jones	7	0.4%
42. Kingsbury	6	0.4%
43. Lake	15	0.9%
44. Lincoln	39	2.4%
45. Lyman	1	0.1%
46. McCook	25	1.5%
47. McPherson	0	0.0%
48. Marshall	2	0.1%
49. Meade	148	9.1%
50. Mellette	0	0.0%
51. Miner	5	0.3%
52. Moody	8	0.5%
53. Perkins	0	0.0%
54. Potter	1	0.1%
55. Roberts	2	0.1%
56. Sanborn	5	0.3%
57. Spink	4	0.2%
58. Stanley	8	0.5%
59. Sully	2	0.1%
60. Tripp	10	0.6%
61. Turner	14	0.9%
62. Union	10	0.6%
63. Walworth	0	0.0%
64. Ziebach	1	0.1%
65. Shannon	2	0.1%
67. Todd	1	0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>		
<b>Black Hills Counties<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>969</b>	<b>59.8%</b>
<b>West River Counties, including Black Hills</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>East River Counties</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>36.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

**Table 6.** Trends in resident Black Hills deer hunters' home county (1995-2004).

<b>RESIDENCE</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Black Hills<sup>1</sup></b>	68%	64%	62%	56.5%	56.8%	59.6%	60.9%	59.2%
<b>West River, excluding Black Hill</b>	3%	3%	3%	5.0%	2.7%	3.7%	3.0%	3.2%
<b>East River</b>	29%	33%	35%	38.5%	40.5%	36.7%	36.1%	37.6%

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

**Table 6 - Continued.**

<b>RESIDENCE</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>			
<b>Black Hills<sup>1</sup></b>	62.2%	59.8%			
<b>West River, excluding Black Hill</b>	4.0%	4.2%			
<b>East River</b>	33.8%	36.0%			

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

**Table 7.** Percent of male and female hunters in the 1998 – 2004 Black Hills deer season.

<b>SEX</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Male</b>	96.3%	93.7%	93.9%	93.5%	93.5%
<b>Female</b>	3.7%	6.3%	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Sample size</b>	355	1,701	1,813	1,746	1,734

**Table 7 - Continued.**

<b>SEX</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>			
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>			
<b>Male</b>	92.3%	92.5%			
<b>Female</b>	7.7%	7.5%			
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	100%			
<b>Sample size</b>	1,907	1,993			



**Table 7-A.** Percent of male and female 2004 Black Hills deer hunters comparing residents and nonresidents.

<b>SEX</b>	<b>Residents<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>Nonresidents<sup>1</sup></b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Male</b>	1,687	92.1%	156	96.9%
<b>Female</b>	145	7.9%	5	3.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,832	100%	161	100%

<sup>1</sup>Chi-square=4.92; df=1; *p*=0.027

**Table 8.** Age distribution of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters.

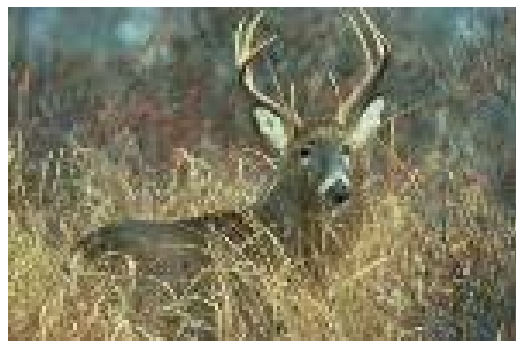
<b>AGE CATEGORY</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>AGE CATEGORY</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
12 – 14	62	3.1%	12 – 19	177	8.9%
15 – 17	81	4.1%	20 – 29	280	14.0%
18 – 20	63	3.2%	30 – 39	363	18.2%
21 – 24	106	5.3%	40 – 49	484	24.3%
25 – 29	145	7.3%	50 – 59	400	20.1%
30 – 34	181	9.1%	60 – 69	203	10.2%
35 – 39	182	9.1%	70 – 79	79	4.0%
40 – 44	256	12.8%	80 – 89	7	0.4%
45 – 49	228	11.4%			
50 – 54	210	10.5%			
55 – 59	190	9.5%			
60 – 64	112	5.6%			
65 – 69	91	4.6%			
70 – 74	63	3.2%			
75 – 79	16	0.8%			
80 – 84	7	0.4%			
85 – 89	0	0.0%			
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,993	100%	<b>TOTAL</b>	1,993	100%
<b>Summarized Age Data Comparing 1998 – 2002</b>					
<b>1998</b>	Mean age = 40.9 years; median age = 41; mode = 42; range = 12 – 77.				
<b>1999</b>	Mean age = 41.3 years; median age = 41; mode = 39 & 40; range = 12 – 83.				
<b>2000</b>	Mean age = 40.7 years; median age = 40; mode = 40; range = 11 – 88.				
<b>2001</b>	Mean age = 41.4 years; median age = 42; mode = 48; range = 12 – 86.				
<b>2002</b>	Mean age = 41.5 years; median age = 42; mode = 40; range = 12 – 88.				
<b>2003</b>	Mean age = 42.7 years; median age = 43; mode = 42; range = 12 – 89; 95% CI = 42.0 – 43.4				
<b>2004</b>	Mean age = 42.8 years; median age = 43; mode = 45; range = 12 – 84; 95% CI = 41.8 – 43.2				

**Table 8-A.** Age distribution of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters comparing residents and nonresidents.

Age Category	Residents <sup>1</sup>		Nonresidents <sup>1</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>12 – 19</b>	169	9.2%	8	5.0%
<b>20 – 29</b>	262	14.3%	18	11.2%
<b>30 – 39</b>	335	18.3%	28	17.4%
<b>40 – 49</b>	450	24.6%	34	21.1%
<b>50 – 59</b>	361	19.7%	39	24.2%
<b>60 – 69</b>	175	9.6%	28	17.4%
<b>70 – 79</b>	73	4.0%	6	3.7%
<b>80 – 89</b>	7	0.4%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	1,832	100%	161	100%
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup>/95% CI</b>	42.2	41.4 – 42.9	46.3	44.0 – 48.6
<b>Median</b>	43.0		47.0	
<b>Mode</b>	50		(multiple modes)	
<b>Range</b>	12 – 84		14 – 78	

<sup>1</sup>Chi-square=15.91; df=7;  $p=0.026$

<sup>2</sup>Oneway ANOVA  $F=10.32$ ;  $df=1/1,991$ ;  $p=0.001$



**Hunting Statistics:**

**Table 9.** Average days hunted by resident and nonresident Black Hills deer hunters by unit, 2004 compared with 1998 - 2003.<sup>1</sup>

Unit	2004 Residents	2004 Nonresidents	2004 Combined
400A	5.18	4.19	5.11
401A	2.87	3.09	2.89
402A	2.31	2.38	2.31
403A	2.58	3.11	2.62
404A	2.64	3.10	2.69
30-Day Season	5.18	4.19	5.11
10-Day Season <sup>2</sup>	2.61	2.95	2.64

<sup>1</sup>Calculations do not include hunters that had a license but did not hunt.

<sup>2</sup>Hunters in this season with a 01-license type (any-deer) averaged 2.85 days of hunting (2.46 – 3.24) while hunters with a 06-license type (antlerless whitetail) averaged 2.57 days of hunting (2.38 – 2.76).

**Table 9-Continued.** Average days hunted by resident and nonresident Black Hills deer hunters by unit, 2004 compared with 1998 - 2003.<sup>1</sup>

Unit	2004 Combined	2003 Combined	2002 Combined	2001 Combined	2000 Combined	1999 Combined	1998 Combined
400A	5.11	5.3	5.5	5.6	6.0	6.2	6.2
401A	2.89	2.6	2.8 <sup>2</sup>	3.4	2.4	3.3	3.4
402A	2.31	2.6	2.8	3.4	2.8	3.6	3.3
403A	2.62	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.1
404A	2.69	2.4	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.4	3.2
30-Day Season	5.11	5.3	5.5	5.6	6.0	N/A	N/A
10-Day Season <sup>2</sup>	2.64	2.5	2.8	3.2	2.9	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup>Calculations do not include hunters that had a license but did not hunt.

<sup>2</sup>Hunters in this unit with a 01-license type (any-deer) averaged 2.7 days of hunting (2.37 – 3.10) while hunters with a 06-license type (antlerless whitetail) averaged 2.2 days of hunting (1.95 – 2.46).

**Table 9-A.** Total estimated recreational days of hunting during the 2004 Black Hills deer season.

Residence	Number of Days	Percent
Residents	28,885	93.7%
Nonresidents	1,926	6.3%
Total	30,811	100%

## Harvest Statistics for 2004 Black Hills Deer Season:

**Table 10.** 2004 Black Hills harvest estimate based on sample data.

Species	Success Rate <sup>1</sup>	Number of Tags	Harvest
Estimated harvest for the 30-day (buck-only) season			
unsuccessful	34.9%	5,489 (-313 didn't hunt) <b>5,176</b>	
Whitetail Buck	48.6%		2,516
Mule Deer Buck	16.5%		854
Estimated harvest for the 10-day (any deer/any whitetail) season			
unsuccessful	22.8%	1,857 (-208 didn't hunt) <b>1,649</b>	
Whitetail Buck	11.7%		193
Whitetail Doe	58.6%		966
Mule Deer Buck	2.9%		48
Mule Deer Doe	4.0%		66

<sup>1</sup>Success rate does not include hunters that did not hunt

**Table 10-A.** Overall harvest success by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2004).

Season	Harvest Success Rate <sup>1</sup>					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>30-Day</b>	43.7%	43.8%	48.9%	57.9%	56.2%	60.9%
<b>10-Day</b>	55.3%	55.7%	66.0%	69.0%	71.7%	80.2%

<sup>1</sup>Success rate does not include hunters that did not hunt

**Table 10-A – Continued.**

Season	Harvest Success Rate <sup>1</sup>					
	2004					
<b>30-Day</b>	65.1%					
<b>10-Day</b>	77.2%					

<sup>1</sup>Success rate does not include hunters that did not hunt

**Table 11.** Summarized 2004 Black Hills harvest estimate comparing results from this opinion survey with the results from the regular 2004 Black Hills deer harvest survey.

Whitetail Buck	Whitetail Doe	Mule Deer Buck	Mule Deer Doe
<b>This 2004 opinion survey</b>			
<b>2,709</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>2004 “regular” deer harvest survey</b>			
<b>2,801</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>59</b>

**Table 12.** 2004 Black Hills harvest estimate based on sample data comparing resident and nonresident harvest.

Species	Success Rate <sup>1</sup>		Number of Tags <sup>2</sup>		Harvest <sup>3</sup>			
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident		
Estimated harvest for the 30-day (buck-only) season								
unsuccessful	35.7%	26.8%	5,089	400				
Whitetail Buck	48.4%	50.9%	(-285)	(-20)	2,325	193		
Mule Deer Buck	15.9%	22.3%	4,804	380	764	85		
Estimated harvest for the 10-day (any deer/any whitetail) season								
unsuccessful	23.5%	15.4%						
Whitetail Buck	11.9%	10.3%	1,721	136	181	13		
Whitetail Doe	58.1%	64.1%	(-196)	(-13)	886	79		
Mule Deer Buck	2.4%	7.7%	1,525	123	37	9		
Mule Deer Doe	4.1%	2.6%			63	3		
SUMMARIZED RESULTS								
Species	Resident		Nonresident		Combined			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Whitetail Buck	2,506	58.9%	206	53.9%	2,712	58.5%		
Whitetail Doe	886	20.8%	79	20.7%	965	20.8%		
Mule Deer Buck	801	18.8%	94	24.6%	895	19.3%		
Mule Deer Doe	63	1.5%	3	0.8%	66	1.4%		
Total	4,256	100%	382	100%	4,638	100%		
SUMMARIZED RESULTS								
Residence	Whitetail Buck		Whitetail Doe		Mule Deer Buck		Mule Deer Doe	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Resident	2,506	92.4%	886	91.8%	801	89.5%	63	95.5%
Nonresident	206	7.6%	79	8.2%	94	10.5%	3	4.5%
Total	2,712	100%	965	100%	895	100%	66	100%
SUMMARIZED RESULTS								
Residence	Total Deer			Overall Harvest Success Rate <sup>1</sup>				
	Number		Percent	30-Day Season		10-Day Season		
Residents	4,256		91.8%	64.3%		73.2%		
Nonresidents	382		8.2%	76.5%		84.6%		
Total / Average	4,638		100%	67.3%		76.5%		

<sup>1</sup>Success rate does not include hunters that did not hunt

<sup>2</sup>Tag number does not include hunters that did not hunt

<sup>3</sup>Harvest totals are slightly different from those listed in Tables 10 and 11 due to rounding error.

**Table 12-A** Overall harvest success estimated for ALL licensed Black Hills deer hunters in 2004.

Season	Harvest Success Rate <sup>1</sup>		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>30-Day</b>	60.7%	69.5%	61.4%
<b>10-Day</b>	67.8%	76.7%	68.6%
<b>Combined</b>	62.5%	71.4%	63.2%

<sup>1</sup>Success rate includes hunters that did not hunt

**Table 13.** Antler size (Eastern count) for the 2004 Black Hills deer season.

Total Points	Whitetail Bucks (Percent) <sup>1</sup>			Mule Deer Bucks (Percent) <sup>1</sup>		
	Buck Only	Any Deer <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>3</sup>	Buck Only	Any Deer <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>3</sup>
<b>2/(spikes)</b>	0.0%	7.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%
<b>3</b>	0.7%	2.4%	0.8%	2.1%	9.1%	2.4%
<b>4</b>	3.5%	9.5%	3.8%	34.3%	72.7%	36.2%
<b>5</b>	2.9%	2.4%	2.9%	10.7%	0.0%	10.2%
<b>6</b>	9.7%	19.0%	10.2%	21.0%	0.0%	20.3%
<b>7</b>	5.3%	4.8%	5.4%	9.4%	18.2%	9.8%
<b>8</b>	48.7%	38.1%	48.0%	8.6%	0.0%	8.1%
<b>9</b>	8.7%	4.8%	8.4%	4.7%	0.0%	4.5%
<b>10</b>	12.7%	11.9%	12.8%	8.2%	0.0%	7.7%
<b>11</b>	4.0%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>12</b>	2.5%	0.0%	2.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%
<b>13</b>	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>14</b>	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>15</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>16</b>	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>17</b>	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Number</b>	692	42	736	233	11	246
<b>Average</b>	8.1	6.9	8.1	5.9	4.5	5.8

<sup>1</sup>Six whitetail bucks in the sample were button-bucks (0.8% of the buck harvest) and one mule deer buck in the sample was a button-buck (0.4% of the buck harvest) and not included in the calculations for antler size.

<sup>2</sup>License type 01

<sup>3</sup>Two whitetail bucks and two mule deer bucks were harvested by hunters that removed their questionnaire ID number which is used to identify season.

**Table 14.** Antler size (Eastern count) trends (1996–2004) for the Black Hills deer season.

Year	Whitetail Buck		Mule Deer Buck	
	Ave. Total Points	Sample Size	Ave. Total Points	Sample Size
<b>1996</b>	6.7	362	4.7	75
<b>1997</b>	6.7	318	5.1	100
<b>1998</b>	7.0	744	5.3	251
<b>1999</b>	7.0	464	5.5	188
<b>2000</b>	7.5	626	5.8	137
<b>2001</b>	7.8	646	5.9	218
<b>2002</b>	7.9	665	6.0	192
<b>2003</b>	8.1	757	5.9	212
<b>2004</b>	8.1	736	5.8	246



**Satisfaction with the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season:**

**Table 15.** Satisfaction with the 2004 Black Hills deer hunting—*Considering your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you?*

SATISFACTION	2004 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING <sup>1</sup>		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	35.2%	48.0%	36.3%
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	35.8%	32.0%	35.5%
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	11.5%	13.3%	11.7%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	7.5%	2.0%	7.1%
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	4.8%	2.0%	4.6%
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	2.2%	0.7%	2.1%
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	2.8%	2.0%	2.8%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,723	150	1,873
<b>MEAN<sup>2,3</sup></b>	1.71	2.12	1.74
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.64 – 1.78	1.92 – 2.32	1.68 – 1.81
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>4</sup></b>			
<b>SATISFIED</b>	82.6%	93.3%	83.4%
<b>NEUTRAL/No Opinion</b>	7.5%	2.0%	7.1%
<b>DISSATISFIED</b>	9.9%	4.7%	9.5%

<sup>1</sup>Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=17.43$ ;  $df=6$ ;  $p=0.008$

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

<sup>3</sup>ANOVA:  $F=10.85$ ;  $df=1/1,871$ ;  $p=0.001$

<sup>4</sup>Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=11.83$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.003$



**Trends–Satisfaction (1995-2004):**

**Table 16-A.** Trends in satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting from 1995-2004 for **resident** hunters. The change in management strategy was implemented in 1996.

Satisfaction	RESIDENTS								
	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Satisfied</b>	48.0%	60.4%	47.0%	67.4%	67.0%	72.7%	76.4%	71.8%	81.4%
<b>Neutral</b>	8.9%	14.8%	13.9%	9.8%	12.4%	18.8%	13.0%	18.2%	8.6%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	43.0%	24.9%	39.1%	22.8%	20.6%	8.5%	10.6%	10.0%	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	941	1,294	1,397	325	1,436	1,661	1,531	1,632	1,647
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	0.1	0.8	0.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.7

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

**Table 16-A – Continued.**

Satisfaction	RESIDENTS				
	2004				
<b>Satisfied</b>	82.6%				
<b>Neutral</b>	7.5%				
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	9.9%				
<b>Total</b>	1,723				
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	1.7				

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

**Table 16-B.** Trends in satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting from 1995-2004 for **nonresident** hunters. The change in management strategy was implemented in 1996.

Satisfaction	NONRESIDENTS								
	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Satisfied</b>	58.5%	75.4%	62.8%	74.1%	73.3%	77.7%	86.9%	82.5%	90.6%
<b>Neutral</b>	9.4%	8.8%	9.5%	11.1%	10.1%	13.1%	6.9%	9.5%	3.6%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	32.1%	15.8%	27.7%	14.8%	16.7%	9.2%	6.2%	8.0%	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	159	114	137	27	258	128	145	137	139
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	0.7	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.1

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

**Table 16-B – Continued.**

Satisfaction	NONRESIDENTS				
	2004				
<b>Satisfied</b>	93.3%				
<b>Neutral</b>	2.0%				
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	4.7%				
<b>Total</b>	150				
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	2.1				

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

## Hunters' Evaluations of the 2004 Black Hills Deer Season:

**Table 17.** About how many deer, bucks and quality bucks did you see during your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunt (information compared with 1998 through 2003 data)?

Statistics	Total Deer Seen						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mean	42.4	43.5	77.5	54.6	69.3	80.0	77.4
Median	30.0	25.0	45.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	50.0
Mode	30	20	50	50	50	50	50
% seeing zero	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Statistics	Total Bucks Seen						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mean	3.6	4.6	7.6	7.2	7.9	10.0	10.9
Median	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.0
Mode	0	1	3	2	3	3	2
% seeing zero	19.1%	16.0%	8.4%	6.9%	6.4%	5.3%	4.1%
Statistics	Total Quality Bucks Seen						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mean	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.1
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Mode	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
% seeing zero	42.5%	39.9%	30.0%	25.1%	24.3%	21.3%	19.6%

**Table 17-A.** Frequency of the number of deer seen by 2004 Black Hills deer hunters (information compared with 1998 through 2003 data).

Frequency Range	2004		Percent for previous years (1998 – 2003)					
	Number	Percent	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
0 – 5	60	3.2%	7.5%	8.5%	3.9%	5.8%	3.9%	3.2%
6 – 10	135	7.3%	12.7%	12.9%	6.4%	9.9%	6.2%	6.0%
11 – 20	258	13.9%	21.9%	22.9%	14.8%	20.0%	17.9%	14.8%
21 – 30	290	15.6%	16.4%	16.4%	15.2%	17.4%	14.7%	14.8%
31 – 40	153	8.2%	9.5%	7.0%	9.3%	10.0%	8.6%	7.1%
41 – 50	217	11.7%	10.4%	9.2%	12.1%	10.7%	11.7%	11.3%
51 – 75	184	9.9%	7.5%	7.2%	9.4%	8.0%	9.4%	10.1%
76 – 100	242	13.0%	7.5%	8.7%	12.3%	8.3%	11.8%	13.5%
101 – 200	214	11.5%	5.8%	5.9%	11.4%	6.9%	10.6%	12.6%
> 200	108	5.8%	1.2%	1.4%	5.1%	3.0%	5.1%	6.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>1,765</b>

**Table 17-B.** Frequency of the number of bucks deer seen by 2004 Black Hills deer hunters (information compared with 1998 through 2003 data).

Frequency Range	2004		Percent for previous years (1998 – 2003)					
	Number	Percent	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>0</b>	76	4.1%	19.1%	16.0%	8.4%	6.9%	6.4%	5.3%
<b>1</b>	127	6.8%	18.3%	17.4%	11.5%	10.8%	8.5%	7.8%
<b>2</b>	189	10.1%	14.0%	14.1%	11.1%	12.6%	10.9%	9.8%
<b>3</b>	186	9.9%	11.4%	10.3%	12.2%	12.1%	11.5%	10.8%
<b>4</b>	153	8.2%	8.6%	9.0%	9.0%	10.0%	10.5%	8.3%
<b>5</b>	156	8.3%	6.9%	7.8%	8.9%	8.9%	8.9%	8.1%
<b>6 – 10</b>	445	23.7%	16.3%	15.9%	20.8%	21.5%	22.4%	24.7%
<b>11 – 20</b>	335	18.9%	4.6%	7.5%	12.5%	11.8%	14.0%	14.8%
<b>&gt; 20</b>	189	10.1%	0.9%	2.0%	5.6%	5.4%	6.8%	10.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,876	100%	350	1,697	1,655	1,659	1,654	1,779

**Table 17-C.** Frequency of the number of “quality” bucks deer seen by 2004 Black Hills deer hunters (information compared with 1998 through 2003 data).

Frequency Range	2004		Percent for previous years (1998 – 2003)					
	Number	Percent	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>0</b>	361	19.6%	42.5%	39.9%	30.0%	25.1%	24.3%	21.3%
<b>1</b>	429	23.3%	25.9%	26.8%	24.8%	26.5%	23.6%	22.9%
<b>2</b>	353	19.2%	17.5%	14.5%	16.4%	20.1%	20.4%	18.8%
<b>3</b>	227	12.4%	9.2%	8.4%	10.7%	11.7%	11.5%	11.9%
<b>4</b>	132	7.2%	3.4%	4.3%	6.3%	5.7%	6.2%	6.9%
<b>5</b>	127	6.9%	0.9%	2.4%	3.9%	3.0%	5.4%	7.7%
<b>6 – 8</b>	87	4.7%	0.0%	2.3%	3.9%	3.5%	4.5%	4.8%
<b>9 – 10</b>	56	3.0%	0.6%	1.0%	2.1%	2.6%	2.1%	3.3%
<b>&gt; 10</b>	66	3.6%	0.0%	0.4%	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%	2.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,838	100%	348	1,680	1,624	1,644	1,645	1,716

**Table 18.** Rating of the number of deer seen during the 2004 Black Hills deer season  
 –How would you rate the total number of deer you saw this year while  
 Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1  
 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of deer. Leave blank if  
 you have no opinion.

Rating – Total Number Deer Seen	2004 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>1 VERY FEW</b>	1.6%	1.3%	1.6%
<b>2</b>	1.9%	1.3%	1.8%
<b>3</b>	3.7%	4.7%	3.7%
<b>4</b>	6.4%	6.7%	6.5%
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	25.9%	18.0%	25.3%
<b>6</b>	12.8%	6.7%	12.3%
<b>7</b>	20.6%	30.0%	21.4%
<b>8</b>	11.9%	14.0%	12.1%
<b>9 LOTS OF DEER</b>	15.2%	17.3%	15.3%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,694	150	1,844
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	6.25	6.53	6.27
<b>95% C.I.</b>	6.16 – 6.34	6.22 – 6.83	6.18 – 6.36
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>1-3 LOW</b>	7.1%	7.3%	7.2%
<b>4-6 MEDIUM</b>	45.2%	31.3%	44.0%
<b>7-9 HIGH</b>	47.7%	61.3%	48.8%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – ANOVA: F=3.05; df=1/1,842; p=0.081

<sup>2</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=11.24$ ; df=2; p=0.004

**Table 19.** Rating of the number of bucks seen during the 2004 Black Hills deer season –*How would you rate the number of BUCKS you saw this year while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of bucks. Leave blank if you have no opinion.*

Rating – Total Number Bucks Seen	2004 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>1 VERY FEW</b>	8.4%	6.0%	8.2%
<b>2</b>	6.6%	7.3%	6.6%
<b>3</b>	9.5%	12.0%	9.7%
<b>4</b>	10.8%	11.3%	10.8%
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	26.9%	22.0%	26.5%
<b>6</b>	11.7%	10.0%	11.6%
<b>7</b>	15.3%	20.0%	15.7%
<b>8</b>	6.0%	7.3%	6.1%
<b>9 LOTS OF BUCKS</b>	4.9%	4.0%	4.8%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,662	150	1,812
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	4.97	5.07	4.98
<b>95% C.I.</b>	4.87 – 5.07	4.73 – 5.41	4.88 – 5.07
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>1-3 LOW</b>	24.4%	25.3%	24.5%
<b>4-6 MEDIUM</b>	49.4%	43.3%	48.9%
<b>7-9 HIGH</b>	26.2%	31.3%	26.6%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – ANOVA:  $F=0.29$ ;  $df=1/1,810$ ;  $p=0.589$

<sup>2</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=2.46$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.293$

**Table 20.** Rating of the QUALITY of bucks seen during the 2004 Black Hills deer season –How would you *rate the QUALITY of bucks you saw this year while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very poor, 5 about average, and 9 being exceptional. Leave blank if you have no opinion.*

Rating – QUALITY of Bucks Seen	2004 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>1 VERY POOR</b>	9.7%	10.7%	9.8%
<b>2</b>	7.0%	6.0%	6.9%
<b>3</b>	10.2%	9.4%	10.1%
<b>4</b>	12.8%	13.4%	12.8%
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	23.4%	16.1%	22.7%
<b>6</b>	13.0%	15.4%	13.2%
<b>7</b>	15.5%	22.1%	16.0%
<b>8</b>	5.8%	4.7%	5.7%
<b>9 EXCEPTIONAL</b>	2.7%	2.0%	2.7%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,610	149	1,759
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	4.79	4.89	4.80
<b>95% C.I.</b>	4.69 – 4.90	4.54 – 5.23	4.70 – 4.90
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>1-3 POOR</b>	26.8%	26.2%	26.8%
<b>4-6 MEDIUM</b>	49.2%	45.0%	48.8%
<b>7-9 EXCEPTIONAL</b>	24.0%	28.9%	24.4%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – ANOVA:  $F=0.26$ ;  $df=1/1,757$ ;  $p=0.610$

<sup>2</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=1.86$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.396$

**Table 21-A.** Comparison of the hunters' evaluation (on a scale of 1 to 9) of the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2004.

Mean Evaluation	Year								% Change 97–03
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
<b>Deer Seen</b>	3.5	4.3	4.6	5.8	5.2	5.7	6.0	6.3	35.0%
<b>Bucks Seen</b>	2.5	3.2	3.6	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.8	5.0	31.3%
<b>Quality Bucks Seen</b>	3.2	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	20.0%

**Table 21-B.** Comparison of the hunters' evaluation (on a scale of 1 to 9) of the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2004.

Evaluation of Number Deer Seen	Year							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>LOW</b>	56.5%	37.8%	32.3%	11.6%	19.5%	13.1%	9.9%	7.2%
<b>MEDIUM</b>	32.2%	46.2%	47.7%	48.8%	52.3%	48.3%	45.9%	44.0%
<b>HIGH</b>	11.3%	16.0%	19.9%	39.6%	28.3%	38.7%	44.2%	48.8%
Evaluation of Number Bucks Seen	Year							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>LOW</b>	74.1%	57.7%	51.0%	36.2%	33.2%	32.1%	27.2%	24.5%
<b>MEDIUM</b>	20.5%	33.9%	39.2%	45.1%	47.1%	47.7%	49.0%	48.9%
<b>HIGH</b>	5.4%	8.4%	9.8%	18.7%	19.7%	20.2%	23.8%	26.6%
Evaluation of Quality of Bucks Seen	Year							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>LOW</b>	58.5%	52.7%	47.9%	39.5%	33.4%	32.4%	27.7%	26.8%
<b>MEDIUM</b>	33.3%	37.5%	39.3%	41.0%	43.7%	45.5%	46.1%	48.8%
<b>HIGH</b>	8.2%	9.8%	12.7%	19.5%	22.7%	22.1%	26.2%	24.4%

**Table 22.** Degree of crowding for the 2004 Black Hills deer season –*How would you rate the hunting conditions in terms of number of other hunters?*

HUNTING CONDITIONS	2004 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING					
	RESIDENT <sup>1</sup>		NONRESIDENT <sup>1</sup>		COMBINED	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	109	6.4%	15	10.1%	124	6.7%
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	1,122	66.3%	114	77.0%	1,236	67.1%
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	324	19.1%	15	10.1%	339	18.4%
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	100	5.9%	3	2.0%	103	5.6%
<b>Very Crowded</b>	38	2.2%	1	0.7%	39	2.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,693	100%	148	100%	1,841	100%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident: Chisq=16.34; df=4; *p*=0.003



**Table 23.** Comparison of the hunters' evaluation of crowding during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2004.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	7.0%	7.3%	10.0%	6.2%	9.8%	9.2%
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	51.2%	58.8%	66.3%	60.4%	64.8%	66.1%
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	23.4%	21.5%	15.4%	21.8%	17.7%	17.5%
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	11.4%	9.9%	6.5%	9.0%	6.0%	5.3%
<b>Very Crowded</b>	7.0%	2.5%	1.9%	2.6%	1.7%	1.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,557	354	1,699	1,634	1,641	1,643
<b>Total License Sales</b>	12,362	8,262	7,830	7,921	6,707	6,449

**Table 23-Continued.** Comparison of the hunters' evaluation of crowding during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2004.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>				
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	7.5%	6.7%				
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	64.9%	67.1%				
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	18.8%	18.4%				
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	7.0%	5.6%				
<b>Very Crowded</b>	1.8%	2.1%				
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,710	1,841				
<b>Total License Sales</b>	6,438	7,346				

## Motivations Related to Black Hills Deer Hunting:

Tables 24A–24H. Reasons for 2004 Black Hills deer hunting– *People like to hunt for many different reasons, please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt deer in the Black Hills.*

**Table 24-A.** Importance of reason: To bring meat home for food.

IMPORTANCE	Meat		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	10.3%	11.8%	10.4%
<b>1</b>	9.7%	10.6%	9.7%
<b>2</b>	11.4%	14.3%	11.6%
<b>3</b>	12.1%	13.7%	12.2%
<b>4</b>	15.0%	15.5%	15.1%
<b>5</b>	17.3%	15.5%	17.1%
<b>6</b>	9.3%	10.6%	9.4%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	14.9%	8.1%	14.3%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,841	161	2,002
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	3.76	3.40	3.73
<b>95% C. I.</b>	3.65 – 3.86	3.07 – 3.73	3.63 – 3.82

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=3.87; df=1/2,000; p=0.049

**Table 24-B.** Importance of reason: To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.

IMPORTANCE	Nature		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
<b>1</b>	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
<b>2</b>	0.8%	0.0%	0.7%
<b>3</b>	1.0%	1.9%	1.1%
<b>4</b>	4.9%	4.3%	4.9%
<b>5</b>	14.4%	13.0%	14.3%
<b>6</b>	26.2%	20.5%	25.7%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	52.1%	60.2%	52.7%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,841	161	2,002
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	6.19	6.33	6.20
<b>95% C. I.</b>	6.14 – 6.24	6.18 – 6.48	6.15 – 6.25

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=2.52; df=1/2,000; p=0.112

**Table 24-C.** Importance of reason: For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.

IMPORTANCE	Excitement		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%
<b>1</b>	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%
<b>2</b>	1.1%	0.0%	1.0%
<b>3</b>	2.2%	1.9%	2.2%
<b>4</b>	8.2%	6.8%	8.0%
<b>5</b>	18.6%	17.4%	18.5%
<b>6</b>	26.5%	23.6%	26.2%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	42.3%	49.7%	42.9%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,840	161	2,001
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	5.91	6.09	5.92
<b>95% C. I.</b>	5.85 – 5.96	5.91 – 6.27	5.87 – 5.98

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=3.27; df=1/1,999; *p*=0.071

**Table 24-D.** Importance of reason: Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.

IMPORTANCE	Social		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	1.7%	0.0%	1.6%
<b>1</b>	1.0%	0.6%	1.0%
<b>2</b>	1.7%	0.0%	1.6%
<b>3</b>	3.1%	1.2%	3.0%
<b>4</b>	6.3%	3.7%	6.1%
<b>5</b>	12.3%	8.7%	12.1%
<b>6</b>	24.1%	18.0%	23.6%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	49.8%	67.7%	51.3%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,839	161	2,000
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	5.94	6.45	5.98
<b>95% C. I.</b>	5.87 – 6.01	6.29 – 6.60	5.91 – 6.04

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=17.70; df=1/1,998; *p*<0.001

**Table 24-E.** Importance of reason: To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.

IMPORTANCE	Trophy		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	10.7%	8.1%	10.4%
<b>1</b>	7.7%	6.8%	7.6%
<b>2</b>	9.9%	13.7%	10.2%
<b>3</b>	12.2%	11.2%	12.1%
<b>4</b>	19.8%	16.8%	19.6%
<b>5</b>	16.6%	21.1%	17.0%
<b>6</b>	11.5%	12.4%	11.6%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	11.6%	9.9%	11.4%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,840	161	2,001
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	3.77	3.84	3.77
<b>95% C. I.</b>	3.67 – 3.87	3.53 – 4.16	3.68 – 3.87

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=0.19; df=1/1,999; p=0.660

**Table 24-F.** Importance of reason: To spend time alone in the woods

IMPORTANCE	Solitude		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	4.7%	3.7%	4.6%
<b>1</b>	3.1%	4.3%	3.2%
<b>2</b>	5.2%	6.8%	5.3%
<b>3</b>	7.7%	5.0%	7.5%
<b>4</b>	16.0%	13.7%	15.8%
<b>5</b>	21.4%	18.0%	21.1%
<b>6</b>	19.7%	25.5%	20.2%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	22.3%	23.0%	22.3%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,835	161	1,996
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	4.82	4.91	4.82
<b>95% C. I.</b>	4.73 – 4.90	4.61 – 5.22	4.74 – 4.91

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=0.37; df=1/1,994; p=0.541

**Table 24-G.** Importance of reason: For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer and dealing with the elements.

IMPORTANCE	Challenge		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	2.4%	1.2%	2.4%
<b>1</b>	2.1%	1.9%	2.1%
<b>2</b>	3.5%	3.1%	3.5%
<b>3</b>	5.9%	4.3%	5.8%
<b>4</b>	14.8%	16.8%	15.0%
<b>5</b>	23.8%	21.1%	23.6%
<b>6</b>	23.4%	23.6%	23.5%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	24.0%	28.0%	24.4%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,839	161	2,000
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	5.14	5.31	5.15
<b>95% C. I.</b>	5.06 – 5.22	5.06 – 5.56	5.08 – 5.23

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=1.55; df=1/1,998; p=0.214

**Table 24-H.** Importance of reason: To have additional deer hunting opportunities.

IMPORTANCE	More Hunting Opportunity		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	3.5%	3.8%	3.5%
<b>1</b>	2.2%	1.3%	2.1%
<b>2</b>	3.9%	5.0%	4.0%
<b>3</b>	6.9%	1.9%	6.5%
<b>4</b>	13.8%	8.8%	13.4%
<b>5</b>	17.2%	19.5%	17.4%
<b>6</b>	20.9%	23.9%	21.2%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	31.5%	35.8%	31.9%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,824	159	1,983
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	5.18	5.44	5.20
<b>95% C. I.</b>	5.10 – 5.27	5.16 – 5.72	5.12 – 5.29

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=2.82; df=1/1,981; p=0.093

**Table 25.** Average rating of importance of reasons for 2004 Black Hills deer hunting.

RESIDENTS			NONRESIDENTS		
Rank	Reason	Mean	Rank	Reason	Mean
1	Nature	6.19	1	Social	6.45
2	Social	5.94	2	Nature	6.33
3	Excitement	5.91	3	Excitement	6.09
4	Hunting Opportunity	5.18	4	Hunting Opportunity	5.44
5	Challenge	5.14	5	Challenge	5.31
6	Solitude	4.82	6	Solitude	4.91
7	Trophy	3.77	7	Trophy	3.84
8	Meat	3.76	8	Meat	3.40

**Table 26.** Comparison of hunters' ratings of the reasons for Black Hills deer hunting (1997–2004).

RESIDENTS								
Reasons	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Nature	6.12	6.01	6.10	6.24	6.20	6.25	6.18	6.19
Excitement	5.75	5.90	6.02	5.93	5.93	5.92	5.93	5.91
Social	5.69	5.85	5.95	5.88	5.87	5.97	5.93	5.94
Challenge	*	5.36	5.36	5.09	5.26	5.24	5.13	5.14
Hunting	**	**	**	5.07	5.23	5.16	5.09	5.18
Solitude	4.79	5.05	4.98	4.77	4.90	4.96	4.89	4.82
Meat	3.86	3.84	3.80	3.81	3.65	3.58	3.57	3.76
Trophy	3.29	3.68	3.69	3.70	3.84	3.90	3.90	3.77
Exercise	4.52	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
NONRESIDENTS								
Reasons	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Nature	6.30	6.11	6.29	6.41	6.31	6.43	6.41	6.33
Social	6.27	6.48	6.36	6.25	6.30	6.19	6.34	6.45
Excitement	5.83	6.00	6.23	6.05	5.96	5.96	6.19	6.09
Challenge	*	4.59	5.56	5.02	5.09	5.29	5.36	5.31
Hunting	**	**	**	4.94	5.30	5.39	5.45	5.44
Solitude	5.25	4.89	5.15	4.85	5.12	5.30	5.13	4.91
Trophy	3.34	3.85	3.87	3.40	4.01	3.82	3.90	3.84
Meat	3.13	2.81	3.14	3.06	3.33	3.08	3.05	3.40
Exercise	4.60	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

\*Not measured in 1997.

\*\*Not measured in 1997, 1998 or 1999.

\*\*\*Not measured in 1998 - 2004.

**Table 27.** Main reason for 2004 Black Hills deer hunting– Overall, which statement above best describes your top reason for why you like Black Hills deer hunting?

<b>TOP REASON</b>	<b>RESIDENTS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>NONRESIDENTS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>COMBINED</b>
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area. <b>(Nature)</b>	28.9%	34.4%	29.3%
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family. <b>(Social)</b>	27.2%	35.6%	27.9%
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc. <b>(Excitement)</b>	18.7%	10.0%	18.0%
To bring meat home for food. <b>(Meat)</b>	7.7%	2.5%	7.3%
For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer & dealing with the elements <b>(Challenge)</b>	6.7%	4.4%	6.5%
To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment. <b>(Trophy)</b>	5.0%	6.9%	5.2%
To have <u>additional</u> deer hunting opportunities <b>(Hunting Opportunity)</b>	2.9%	4.4%	3.1%
To spend time alone in the woods. <b>(Solitude)</b>	2.8%	1.9%	2.7%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,833	160	1,993

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=20.62$ ;  $df=7$ ;  $p=0.004$

**Table 28.** Comparison of main reasons for Black Hills deer hunting—(1997–2004).

<b>TOP REASON<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>RESIDENTS</b>							
	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Social</b>	21.7%	27.9%	26.1%	23.6%	24.3%	28.8%	27.5%	27.2%
<b>Nature</b>	32.1%	24.5%	25.0%	29.6%	30.2%	28.8%	29.0%	28.9%
<b>Excitement</b>	21.7%	15.0%	20.9%	18.8%	20.1%	15.7%	18.7%	18.7%
<b>Meat</b>	12.9%	11.0%	10.4%	10.6%	7.8%	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%
<b>Challenge</b>	*	10.1%	9.6%	6.2%	5.8%	6.4%	6.7%	6.7%
<b>Trophy</b>	6.3%	6.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.5%	6.2%	5.1%	5.0%
<b>Hunting</b>	**	**	**	3.0%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%
<b>Solitude</b>	4.6%	4.6%	3.0%	2.9%	3.2%	3.6%	2.4%	2.8%
<b>Exercise<sup>2</sup></b>	0.9%	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,485	326	1,429	1,681	1,606	1,603	1,740	1,833

<sup>1</sup>See Table 27 for definitions.

<sup>2</sup>For the physical exercise that hunting provides.

\*Not measured in 1997.

\*\*Not measured in 1997, 1998 or 1999.

\*\*\*Not measured in 1998 – 2004.

**Table 28 - Continued.** Comparison of main reasons for Black Hills deer hunting—(1997–2004).

<b>TOP REASON<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>							
	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Social</b>	42.3%	37.0%	31.3%	28.3%	36.3%	31.1%	37.3%	35.6%
<b>Nature</b>	33.1%	25.9%	25.8%	38.6%	28.8%	34.1%	27.5%	34.4%
<b>Excitement</b>	12.0%	14.8%	23.4%	16.5%	22.6%	14.1%	19.0%	10.0%
<b>Meat</b>	0.7%	0.0%	2.0%	0.8%	1.4%	3.7%	2.1%	2.5%
<b>Challenge</b>	*	11.1%	7.8%	3.1%	2.1%	5.2%	2.1%	4.4%
<b>Trophy</b>	6.3%	7.4%	7.0%	7.1%	4.8%	8.9%	4.9%	6.9%
<b>Hunting</b>	**	**	**	5.5%	3.4%	2.2%	6.3%	4.4%
<b>Solitude</b>	4.9%	3.7%	2.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	1.9%
<b>Exercise<sup>2</sup></b>	0.7%	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
<b>NUMBER</b>	142	27	256	127	146	135	142	160

<sup>1</sup>See Table 27 for definitions.

<sup>2</sup>For the physical exercise that hunting provides.

\*Not measured in 1997.

\*\*Not measured in 1997, 1998 or 1999.

\*\*\*Not measured in 1998 – 2004.



**Table 29.** Summary of mean ratings of eight possible reasons for hunting deer in the Black Hills for each of the **types** of Black Hills deer hunters (2004).

Ratings of Reasons	<b>Types of Black Hills Deer Hunters</b>							
	Nature	Social	Excitement	Meat	Challenge	Trophy	Hunting <sup>1</sup>	Solitude
Nature	6.69	6.10	6.11	5.73	6.06	5.51	5.61	6.04
Social	6.05	6.64	5.75	5.42	5.62	5.09	5.31	4.74
Excitement	5.90	5.73	6.55	5.28	6.25	5.83	5.67	5.43
Meat	3.49	3.24	3.81	6.60	3.81	3.49	4.02	3.24
Challenge	5.09	4.80	5.40	4.41	6.64	5.65	5.16	5.33
Trophy	3.37	3.52	4.43	2.67	4.04	6.53	4.21	3.09
Hunting <sup>1</sup>	5.08	4.98	5.29	5.01	5.92	5.83	6.34	4.63
Solitude	5.20	4.33	4.74	4.25	5.42	4.93	4.77	6.48
% Sample	29.3%	27.9%	18.0%	7.3%	6.5%	5.2%	3.1%	2.7%

<sup>1</sup>Opportunity

### Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting:

**Table 30.** Importance of 2004 Black Hills deer hunting– *How important is **Black Hills deer hunting** to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting?*

IMPORTANCE	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
Most Important	24.7%	20.6%	24.3%
Very Important	41.5%	38.1%	41.2%
Moderately Important	24.8%	30.0%	25.3%
Slightly Important	6.5%	6.9%	6.6%
Not Important	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%
No Opinion	0.7%	2.5%	0.9%
NUMBER	1,836	160	1,996
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=8.54$ ; $df=5$ ; $p=0.129$			

**Table 31.** Comparison of hunters' rating of their importance of Black Hills deer hunting (1997–2004).

IMPORTANCE	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Most Important	*	*	*	18.6%	22.9%	23.4%	22.2%	24.3%
Very Important	58.8%	62.5%	62.3%	45.7%	45.3%	43.8%	42.5%	41.2%
Moderately Important	30.1%	30.7%	29.7%	25.7%	21.9%	22.4%	23.0%	25.3%
Slightly Important	8.5%	6.2%	6.8%	6.7%	6.5%	6.1%	6.7%	6.6%
Not Important	2.6%	0.6%	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%	2.0%	1.2%	1.8%
No Opinion	*	*	*	1.9%	2.0%	2.2%	4.4%	0.9%
TOTAL	1,596	355	1,709	1,822	1,775	1,776	1,938	1,996

## Black Hills Deer Hunting Experience:

**Table 32.** Years of experience hunting deer by residents and nonresidents in the Black Hills, 1998 – 2004.

Years of Experience	Resident						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>1 Year</b>	6.1%	11.0%	10.0%	10.5%	9.6%	9.6%	13.2%
<b>2 – 3 Years</b>	14.0%	15.0%	13.9%	13.3%	14.0%	13.4%	14.4%
<b>4 – 5 Years</b>	13.7%	11.5%	11.3%	9.6%	11.0%	10.0%	10.1%
<b>6 – 10 Years</b>	18.0%	14.6%	16.1%	18.9%	17.8%	18.2%	18.3%
<b>11 – 20 Years</b>	21.0%	20.7%	20.2%	19.6%	21.8%	21.3%	19.1%
<b>21 – 30 Years</b>	16.2%	13.3%	14.8%	14.0%	13.3%	14.7%	12.0%
<b>31 or more</b>	11.0%	13.9%	13.7%	14.1%	12.4%	12.8%	12.9%
<b>Number</b>	328	1,443	1,684	1,589	1,581	1,663	1,755
<b>Mean Years</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.0	14.3	14.9	13.9
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.2 – 15.5	13.3 – 14.5

**Table 32-Continued.** Years of experience hunting deer by residents and nonresidents in the Black Hills, 1998 – 2004.

Years of Experience	Nonresident						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>1 Year</b>	25.9%	25.7%	27.5%	23.3%	30.1%	21.1%	21.3%
<b>2 – 3 Years</b>	7.4%	17.5%	9.1%	20.5%	19.9%	24.8%	16.8%
<b>4 – 5 Years</b>	11.1%	14.0%	13.7%	8.9%	10.3%	3.8%	14.8%
<b>6 – 10 Years</b>	25.9%	8.9%	16.8%	19.9%	15.4%	12.8%	20.0%
<b>11 – 20 Years</b>	3.7%	17.9%	14.5%	16.4%	12.5%	23.3%	12.9%
<b>21 – 30 Years</b>	7.4%	10.9%	13.7%	7.5%	3.7%	11.3%	10.3%
<b>31 or more</b>	18.5%	5.1%	4.6%	3.4%	8.1%	3.0%	3.9%
<b>Number</b>	27	257	131	146	136	133	155
<b>Mean Years</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.4	8.7	10.1	9.1
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3 – 11.9	7.5 – 10.6

## “Harvest” Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters:

**Table 33.** Black Hills deer hunter attitudes toward “harvest” (2004).

Attitude (scale)	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.			
<b>Strongly Agree (+2)</b>	52.4%	52.2%	52.4%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	32.0%	37.9%	32.4%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion (0)</b>	7.2%	4.3%	7.0%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	6.2%	3.7%	6.0%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-2)</b>	2.3%	1.9%	2.2%
<b>Total Number</b>	1,856	161	2,017
<b>Mean</b>	1.26	1.35	1.27
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.21 – 1.30	1.21 – 1.48	1.22 – 1.31
Chi-sq=4.97; df=4; $p=0.290$			
ANOVA: $F=1.19$ ; $df=1 / 2,015$ ; $p=0.275$			
I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.			
<b>Strongly Agree (+2)</b>	19.2%	24.2%	19.6%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	12.6%	12.4%	12.6%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion (0)</b>	15.7%	11.8%	15.4%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	19.4%	19.3%	19.4%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-2)</b>	33.0%	32.3%	33.0%
<b>Total Number</b>	1,854	161	2,015
<b>Mean</b>	-0.34	-0.23	-0.34
<b>95% C.I.</b>	-0.41 – -0.28	-0.48 – 0.02	-0.40 – -0.27
Chi-sq=3.43; df=4; $p=0.488$			
ANOVA: $F=0.84$ ; $df=1 / 2,013$ ; $p=0.360$			
Filling my Black Hills deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.			
<b>Strongly Agree (+2)</b>	17.2%	15.5%	17.1%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	36.1%	45.3%	36.8%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion (0)</b>	22.2%	19.9%	22.0%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	15.5%	10.6%	15.1%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-2)</b>	9.0%	8.7%	9.0%
<b>Total Number</b>	1,854	161	2,015
<b>Mean</b>	0.37	0.48	0.38
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.32 – 0.42	0.31 – 0.66	0.33 – 0.43
Chi-sq=6.46; df=4; $p=0.168$			
ANOVA: $F=1.37$ ; $df=1 / 2,013$ ; $p=0.242$			

Table continued on next Page

**Table 33 – Continued.** Black Hills deer hunter attitudes toward “harvest” (2004).

<b>Attitude (scale)</b>	<b>Residents</b>	<b>Nonresidents</b>	<b>Combined</b>
I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.			
<b>Strongly Agree (+2)</b>	20.0%	23.0%	20.3%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	24.1%	23.6%	24.0%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion (0)</b>	15.5%	12.4%	15.3%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	17.8%	22.4%	18.2%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-2)</b>	22.6%	18.6%	22.2%
<b>Total Number</b>	1,857	161	2,018
<b>Mean</b>	0.01	0.10	0.02
<b>95% C.I.</b>	-0.05 – 0.08	-0.13 – 0.33	-0.04 – 0.08
Chi-sq=4.28; df=4; $p=0.370$			
ANOVA: $F=0.53$ ; df=1 / 2,016; $p=0.465$			

**Table 34.** Black Hills deer hunters’ mean attitudes toward “harvest” (2001 – 2004).

<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Residents and Nonresidents Combined</b>			
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.				
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	1.19	1.24	1.23	1.27
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	1.18 – 1.27	1.22 – 1.31
I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.				
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	0.08	-0.08	-0.12	-0.34
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	-0.19 – -0.05	-0.40 – -0.27
Filling my Black Hills deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.				
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	0.41	0.30	0.30	0.38
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	0.25 – 0.36	0.33 – 0.43
I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.				
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	0.00	0.06	0.15	0.02
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	0.08 – 0.21	-0.04 – 0.08

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree = 2, Slightly Agree = 1, Neutral/No Opinion = 0, Slightly Disagree = -1, Strong Disagree = -2

**Table 35.** How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2004)? *Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_ to me.*

Attitude Response (scale)	2004		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	9.6%	7.5%	9.4%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	26.1%	29.2%	26.4%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	43.6%	44.7%	43.6%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	19.2%	18.6%	19.1%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	1.6%	0.0%	1.4%
<b>Number</b>	1,853	161	2,014
<b>Mean</b>	1.71	1.75	1.71
<b>95% C. I.</b>	1.67 – 1.75	1.61 – 1.88	1.67 – 1.75
Chi-sq=3.85; df=4, $p=0.427$ (comparing residents and nonresidents)			
ANOVA: $F=0.27$ ; $df=1/2,012$ ; $p=0.603$ (comparing residents and nonresidents)			

**Table 36.** How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2001 - 2004)? *Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_ to me.*

Attitude Response (scale)	Residents and Nonresidents Combined			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	9.4%	9.4%	10.3%	9.4%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	27.5%	28.3%	27.3%	26.4%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	41.6%	41.2%	41.6%	43.6%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	19.2%	16.0%	16.7%	19.1%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	2.3%	4.3%	4.1%	1.4%
<b>Number</b>	1,775	1,776	1,938	2,014
<b>Mean</b>	1.68	1.60	1.61	1.71
<b>95% C. I.</b>	N/A	1.56 – 1.64	1.56 – 1.65	1.67 – 1.75

## Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters towards Crowding:

**Table 37.** How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2004)?

Attitude Response (scale)	2004		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	3.0%	2.5%	2.9%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	11.3%	13.0%	11.4%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	39.0%	36.0%	38.8%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	45.4%	46.6%	48.5%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	1.3%	1.9%	1.4%
<b>Number</b>	1,853	161	2,014
<b>Mean</b>	2.25	2.25	2.25
<b>95% C. I.</b>	2.22 – 2.29	2.12 – 2.38	2.22 – 2.29
Chi-sq=1.19; df=4, $p=0.879$ (comparing residents and nonresidents)			
ANOVA: $F=0.09$ ; df=1/2,012; $p=0.926$ (comparing residents and nonresidents)			

**Table 38.** How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2001 - 2004)?

Attitude Response (scale)	Residents and Nonresidents Combined			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	3.4%	3.5%	3.5%	2.9%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	12.1%	12.9%	11.2%	11.4%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	35.2%	35.4%	36.0%	38.8%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	46.5%	44.2%	46.2%	48.5%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	2.7%	3.9%	3.1%	1.4%
<b>Number</b>	1,775	1,776	1,938	2,014
<b>Mean</b>	2.22	2.16	2.22	2.25
<b>95% C. I.</b>	N/A	2.12 – 2.21	2.18 – 2.26	2.22 – 2.29

## Mountain Lions in South Dakota



The following information was provided in the questionnaire proceeding all the questions on mountain lions:

The mountain lion, *Puma concolor*, is also commonly called cougar, puma, or panther. Mountain lions live in the Black Hills and portions of western South Dakota and may even be found traveling through eastern South Dakota. Mountain lions are usually tawny to light-cinnamon in color with black-tipped ears and tail. Adult males weigh between 120 – 170 pounds and females weigh 80 – 110 pounds.

**Table 39. Awareness of Mountain Lions in South Dakota** – Before being selected to participate in this survey, did you know that mountain lions live in South Dakota?

Awareness	2004 Black Hills Deer Hunters		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>NO</b>	0.8%	9.4%	1.5%
<b>YES</b>	99.2%	90.6%	98.5%
<b>Number</b>	1,851	160	2,011
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=8.54$ ; $df=5$ ; $p=0.129$			

**Table 40. Mountain Lions interactions** – Types of interactions with mountain lions experienced in South Dakota by the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters.

Mountain Lion Interactions	2004 – Percent YES		
	Residents N=1,872	Nonresidents N=163	Combined N=2,035
Observed tracks or signs (e.g., buried deer carcass) of mountain lions (at any time in South Dakota)	59.3%	34.4%	57.3%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=38.29$ ; $df=1$ ; $p<0.001$			
Observed a mountain lion in the wild in South Dakota while doing any non-hunting activities	22.7%	2.5%	21.1%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=36.95$ ; $df=1$ ; $p<0.001$			
Observed a mountain lion while hunting in South Dakota, <u>not</u> including the 2004 Black Hills deer season	14.0%	10.4%	13.8%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1.66$ ; $df=1$ ; $p=0.198$			
Observed a mountain lion while Black Hills deer hunting this year (2004)	6.3%	0.6%	5.8%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=8.82$ ; $df=1$ ; $p=0.003$			

**Table 41. Concern about Safety** – How concerned are you for your safety related to mountain lions while deer hunting in the Black Hills?

Concern about Safety (scale)	2004 Black Hills Deer Hunters		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>Not Concerned (0)</b>	52.4%	63.8%	53.3%
<b>Slightly Concerned (1)</b>	29.5%	21.3%	28.8%
<b>Moderately Concerned (2)</b>	11.9%	11.3%	11.8%
<b>Very Concerned (3)</b>	5.3%	1.9%	5.0%
<b>No Opinion (missing)</b>	1.0%	1.9%	1.0%
<b>Number</b>	1,848	160	2,008
<b>Mean</b>	0.70	0.50	0.68
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.66 – 0.74	0.38 – 0.63	0.64 – 0.72
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=11.67$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.020$			
ANOVA: $F=7.22$ ; $df=1/1,985$ ; $p=0.007$			

**Table 42. Attitude** – Game, Fish and Parks should take necessary steps to reduce the impact of mountain lions on game animals if such action would increase deer hunting opportunities.

ATTITUDE (scale)	2004 Black Hills Deer Hunters <sup>1</sup>		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>Strongly Agree (+3)</b>	14.5%	18.1%	14.8%
<b>Moderately Agree (+2)</b>	13.8%	18.8%	14.2%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	19.3%	15.0%	18.9%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	24.3%	23.1%	24.2%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	8.5%	6.9%	8.4%
<b>Moderately Disagree (-2)</b>	9.4%	7.5%	9.2%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-3)</b>	10.3%	10.6%	10.4%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,847	160	2,007
<b>MEAN<sup>2</sup></b>	0.32	0.53	0.34
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.24 – 0.40	0.24 – 0.83	0.26 – 0.42
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>AGREE</b>	47.5%	51.9%	47.9%
<b>NEUTRAL/No Opinion</b>	24.3%	23.1%	24.2%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	28.2%	25.0%	28.0%

<sup>1</sup>Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=6.43$ ;  $df=6$ ;  $p=0.377$

<sup>3</sup>ANOVA:  $F=1.95$ ;  $df=1/2,005$ ;  $p=0.163$

<sup>3</sup>Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=1.20$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.549$



**Table 43.** Comparing attitudes from the general public sample (2002) with the sample of resident Black Hills deer hunters (2004) – reducing mountain lions to increase deer hunting opportunities.

Attitude – Reducing mountain lions to increase deer hunting opportunities...	General Public (2002) <sup>1</sup>		Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004) <sup>2</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Strongly Agree (+3)</b>	86	7.9%	268	14.5%
<b>Moderately Agree (+2)</b>	162	14.9%	254	13.8%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	209	19.2%	356	19.3%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	220	20.2%	448	24.3%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	165	15.2%	157	8.5%
<b>Moderately Disagree (-2)</b>	118	10.8%	173	9.4%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-3)</b>	129	11.8%	191	10.3%
<b>Total</b>	1,089	100%	1,847	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=60.96$ ; $df=6$ ; $p<0.001$				
<b>Mean</b>	0.00		0.32	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	-0.10 – 0.11		0.24 – 0.40	
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	457	42.0%	878	47.5%
<b>NEUTRAL / NO OPINION</b>	220	20.2%	448	24.3%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	412	37.8%	521	28.2%
<b>Total</b>	1,089	100%	1,847	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=29.60$ ; $df=2$ ; $p<0.001$				

<sup>1</sup>Wording for the general public survey: Fish and wildlife agencies should take necessary steps to reduce the impact of mountain lions on game animals if such action would increase hunting opportunities.

<sup>2</sup>See Table 42.

ATTITUDE (scale)	2004 Black Hills Deer Hunters <sup>1</sup>		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
Strongly Agree (+3)	55.7%	50.9%	55.4%
Moderately Agree (+2)	20.3%	18.2%	20.1%
Slightly Agree (+1)	11.2%	12.6%	11.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	7.0%	12.6%	7.5%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	1.5%	1.9%	1.5%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	1.1%	2.5%	1.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	3.1%	1.3%	3.0%
NUMBER	1,846	159	2,005
MEAN <sup>2</sup>	2.06	1.91	2.05
95% C.I.	1.99 – 2.12	1.69 – 2.14	1.98 – 2.11
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>3</sup></b>			
AGREE	87.2%	81.8%	86.8%
NEUTRAL/No Opinion	7.0%	12.6%	7.5%
DISAGREE	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%

<sup>3</sup>Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=6.50$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.039$


$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \\ & \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \\ & \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \end{aligned}$$

**Table 45.** Comparing attitudes from the general public sample (2002) with the sample of resident Black Hills deer hunters (2004) – I would support a mountain lion season if the state acquires data that the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest.

Attitude – Support for a mountain lion season ...	General Public (2002)		Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Strongly Agree (+3)</b>	331	30.6%	1,029	55.7%
<b>Moderately Agree (+2)</b>	281	26.0%	374	20.3%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	163	15.1%	207	11.2%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	154	14.2%	130	7.0%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	28	2.6%	28	1.5%
<b>Moderately Disagree (-2)</b>	43	4.0%	20	1.1%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-3)</b>	81	7.5%	58	3.1%
<b>Total</b>	1,081	100%	1,846	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=204.97$ ; $df=6$ ; $p<0.001$				
<b>Mean</b>	1.26		2.06	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.15 – 1.37		1.99 – 2.12	
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	775	71.7%	1,610	87.2%
<b>NEUTRAL / NO OPINION</b>	154	14.2%	130	7.0%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	152	14.1%	106	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	1,081	100%	1,846	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=110.15$ ; $df=2$ ; $p<0.001$				

**Table 46.** Interest in a Mountain Lion Season – If South Dakota had a mountain lion season, how interested would you be to have an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota?

Interest in a mountain lion season (scale)	2004 Black Hills Deer Hunters		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>Not Interested (0)</b>	23.6%	31.9%	24.2%
<b>Slightly Interested (1)</b>	16.5%	23.1%	17.0%
<b>Moderately Interested (2)</b>	18.6%	19.4%	18.6%
<b>Very Interested (3)</b>	39.3%	24.4%	38.1%
<b>No Opinion (missing)</b>	2.1%	1.3%	2.0%
<b>Number</b>	1,846	160	2,006
<b>Mean</b>	1.75	1.37	1.72
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.70 – 1.81	1.18 – 1.55	1.67 – 1.77
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=17.08$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.002$			
ANOVA: $F=14.64$ ; $df=1/1,964$ ; $p<0.001$			

**Table 47.** General attitude toward mountain lions in South Dakota comparing South Dakota residents (2002 general public survey)<sup>1</sup> with a sample of 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters.

<b>Attitude towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota</b>	<b>S.D. Residents (2002)<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I enjoy having mountain lions AND I <u>do not</u> worry about problems they may cause.	271	24.8%	468	25.5%
I enjoy having mountain lions BUT I <u>do</u> worry about problems they may cause.	418	38.2%	808	44.0%
I <u>do not</u> enjoy having mountain lions AND I <u>do</u> worry about problems they may cause.	143	13.1%	312	17.0%
I <u>do not</u> enjoy having mountain lions BUT I <u>do not</u> worry about problems they may cause.	43	3.9%	28	1.5%
I have no particular feelings about mountain lions regardless of problems caused or not caused by them	218	20.0%	220	12.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SUMMARY RESULTS</b>				
Enjoy mountain lions	689	63.0%	1,276	69.5%
Do not enjoy mountain lions	186	17.0%	340	18.5%
No opinion	218	20.0%	220	12.0%
Worry about problems caused by lions	561	51.3%	1,120	61.0%
Do not worry about problems caused by lions	314	28.7%	496	27.0%
No opinion	218	20.0%	220	12.0%

<sup>1</sup>Gigliotti, L. M., D. M. Fecske, and J. A. Jenks. 2002. Mountain lions in South Dakota: A public opinion survey. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Pierre, SD. 182 pp.

**General Attitudes towards Mountain Lions (Tables 48a – 48d)<sup>1</sup>:** Comparing South Dakota residents (2002 general public survey) with a sample of 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters.

**Table 48a.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “*The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.*”

Attitude – “The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	281	25.7%	468	25.6%
Moderately Agree (+2)	316	28.9%	444	24.3%
Slightly Agree (+1)	193	17.6%	341	18.7%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	178	16.3%	324	17.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	35	3.2%	93	5.1%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	31	2.8%	64	3.5%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	60	5.5%	94	5.1%
Total	1,094	100%	1,828	100%
Mean	1.27		1.17	
95% C.I.	1.17 – 1.37		1.09 – 1.24	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	790	72.2%	1,253	68.5%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	178	16.3%	324	17.7%
DISAGREE	126	11.5%	251	13.7%

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<sup>1</sup> The 2002 South Dakota resident data in these Tables came from the following research:  
 Gigliotti, L. M., D. M. Fecske, and J. A. Jenks. 2002. Mountain lions in South Dakota:  
 A public opinion survey. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Pierre,  
 SD. 182 pp.

**Table 48b.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “Mountain lions help maintain deer populations in balance with their habitats.”

Attitude – “Mountain lions help maintain deer populations in balance with their habitats.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	312	28.5%	356	19.4%
Moderately Agree (+2)	354	32.3%	418	22.8%
Slightly Agree (+1)	206	18.8%	438	23.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	112	10.2%	254	13.8%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	39	3.6%	139	7.6%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	35	3.2%	98	5.3%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	37	3.4%	131	7.1%
Total	1,095	100%	1,834	100%
Mean	1.49		0.88	
95% C.I.	1.40 – 1.58		0.80 – 0.96	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	872	79.6%	1,212	66.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	112	10.2%	254	13.8%
DISAGREE	111	10.1%	368	20.1%

**Table 48c.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “The presence of mountain lions in South Dakota increases my overall quality of life.”

Attitude – “The presence of mountain lions in South Dakota increases my overall quality of life.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	109	9.9%	173	9.4%
Moderately Agree (+2)	157	14.3%	164	9.0%
Slightly Agree (+1)	167	15.2%	187	10.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	377	34.4%	682	37.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	69	6.3%	163	8.9%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	87	7.9%	171	9.3%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	131	11.9%	291	15.9%
Total	1,097	100%	1,831	100%
Mean	0.16		-0.19	
95% C.I.	0.05 – 0.26		-0.27 – -0.11	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	433	39.5%	524	28.6%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	377	34.4%	682	37.2%
DISAGREE	287	26.2%	625	34.1%

**Table 48d.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “*The presence of mountain lions near my home increases my overall quality of life.*”

Attitude – “The presence of mountain lions <u>near my home</u> Dakota increases my overall quality of life.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	52	4.7%	110	6.0%
Moderately Agree (+2)	98	8.9%	99	5.4%
Slightly Agree (+1)	112	10.2%	127	6.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	373	34.1%	544	29.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	117	10.7%	261	14.3%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	120	11.0%	219	12.0%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	223	20.4%	469	25.6%
Total	1,095	100%	1,829	100%
Mean	-0.51		-0.79	
95% C.I.	-0.62 – -0.41		-0.87 – -0.71	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	262	23.9%	336	18.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	373	34.1%	544	29.7%
DISAGREE	460	42.0%	949	51.9%

**Table 28e.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “*Mountain lions do not compete with hunters for deer.*”

Attitude – “Mountain lions <u>do not</u> compete with hunters for deer.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	267	24.4%	254	13.9%
Moderately Agree (+2)	225	20.6%	206	11.3%
Slightly Agree (+1)	127	11.6%	194	10.6%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	179	16.4%	289	15.8%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	110	10.1%	290	15.8%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	89	8.1%	246	13.4%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	96	8.8%	351	19.2%
Total	1,093	100%	1,830	100%
Mean	0.73		-0.26	
95% C.I.	0.62 – 0.85		-0.35 – -0.16	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	619	56.7%	654	35.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	179	16.4%	289	15.8%
DISAGREE	295	27.0%	887	48.5%

**Table 48f.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “Mountain lions should have the right to exist wherever they may occur.”

Attitude – “Mountain lions should have the right to exist wherever they may occur.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	205	18.7%	317	17.3%
Moderately Agree (+2)	230	21.0%	283	15.4%
Slightly Agree (+1)	176	16.1%	337	18.4%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	87	7.9%	224	12.2%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	149	13.6%	256	14.0%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	101	9.2%	169	9.2%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	148	13.5%	247	13.5%
Total	1,096	100%	1,833	100%
Mean	0.42		0.28	
95% C.I.	0.29 – 0.54		0.19 – 0.37	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	611	55.8%	937	51.1%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	87	7.9%	224	12.2%
DISAGREE	398	36.3%	672	36.7%

**Table 48g.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “Mountain lions are an unacceptable threat to livestock.”

Attitude – “Mountain lions are an unacceptable threat to livestock.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	135	12.3%	226	12.4%
Moderately Agree (+2)	136	12.4%	236	12.9%
Slightly Agree (+1)	189	17.3%	318	17.4%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	219	20.0%	426	23.3%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	140	12.8%	210	11.5%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	143	13.1%	202	11.1%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	133	12.1%	208	11.4%
Total	1,095	100%	1,826	100%
Mean	0.04		0.13	
95% C.I.	-0.07 – 0.15		0.04 – 0.21	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	460	42.0%	780	42.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	219	20.0%	426	23.3%
DISAGREE	416	38.0%	620	34.0%



**Table 48h.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “*Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.*”

Attitude – “Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	146	13.3%	199	10.9%
Moderately Agree (+2)	164	14.9%	244	13.3%
Slightly Agree (+1)	210	19.1%	315	17.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	308	28.1%	536	29.3%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	76	6.9%	151	8.2%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	69	6.3%	164	9.0%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	125	11.4%	223	12.2%
Total	1,098	100%	1,832	100%
Mean	0.35		0.14	
95% C.I.	0.25 – 0.46		0.06 – 0.22	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	520	47.4%	758	41.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	308	28.1%	536	29.3%
DISAGREE	270	24.6%	538	29.4%

**Table 48i.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “*I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.*”

Attitude – “I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	61	5.6%	176	9.6%
Moderately Agree (+2)	75	6.8%	170	9.3%
Slightly Agree (+1)	136	12.4%	322	17.6%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	259	23.6%	395	21.6%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	167	15.2%	277	15.1%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	178	16.2%	233	12.7%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	222	20.2%	259	14.1%
Total	1,098	100%	1,832	100%
Mean	-0.66		-0.18	
95% C.I.	-0.76 – -0.55		-0.26 – -0.10	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	272	24.8%	668	36.5%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	259	23.6%	395	21.6%
DISAGREE	567	51.6%	769	42.0%

**Table 48j.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – *“Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.”*

Attitude – “Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	79	7.2%	138	7.5%
Moderately Agree (+2)	80	7.3%	108	5.9%
Slightly Agree (+1)	119	10.8%	292	15.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	142	12.9%	305	16.6%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	203	18.5%	280	15.3%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	216	19.6%	317	17.3%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	261	23.7%	392	21.4%
Total	1,100	100%	1,832	100%
Mean	-0.82		-0.64	
95% C.I.	-0.93 – -0.71		-0.72 – -0.55	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	278	25.3%	538	29.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	142	12.9%	305	16.6%
DISAGREE	680	61.8%	989	54.0%

**Table 48k.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – *“By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.”*

Attitude – “By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	328	29.8%	537	29.3%
Moderately Agree (+2)	349	31.8%	430	23.5%
Slightly Agree (+1)	210	19.1%	385	21.0%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	84	7.6%	214	11.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	42	3.8%	105	5.7%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	37	3.4%	75	4.1%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	49	4.5%	87	4.7%
Total	1,099	100%	1,833	100%
Mean	1.48		1.28	
	1.39 – 1.58		1.20 – 1.35	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	887	80.7%	1,352	73.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	84	7.6%	214	11.7%
DISAGREE	128	11.7%	267	14.6%

**Table 48I.** Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota – “People who live in mountain lion country should modify certain behaviors (e.g., hiking or jogging alone on trails, hunting alone, feeding deer) to decrease the chance of a negative interaction with a mountain lion.”

Attitude – “People who live in mountain lion country should modify certain behaviors (e.g., hiking or jogging alone on trails, hunting alone, feeding deer) to decrease the chance of a negative interaction with a mountain lion.”	S.D. Residents (2002)		Black Hill Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree (+3)	418	38.1%	497	27.1%
Moderately Agree (+2)	313	28.5%	379	20.7%
Slightly Agree (+1)	187	17.0%	406	22.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	81	7.4%	234	12.8%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	31	2.8%	106	5.8%
Moderately Disagree (-2)	32	2.9%	93	5.1%
Strongly Disagree (-3)	35	3.2%	116	6.3%
Total	1,097	100%	1,831	100%
Mean	1.70		1.10	
95% C.I.	1.61 – 1.79		1.02 – 1.18	
SUMMARY RESULTS				
AGREE	918	83.7%	1,282	70.0%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	81	7.4%	234	12.8%
DISAGREE	98	8.9%	315	17.2%

**Table 49. Attitude towards mountain lions in South Dakota** – Comparing South Dakota residents (2002 general public survey) with a sample of 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters, arranged from smallest to largest difference in mean attitude.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Attitude</b>	<b>S.D. Residents (2002)</b>	<b>Deer Hunters (2004)</b>	<b>% Difference in Mean</b>
Mountain lions are an unacceptable threat to livestock.	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Mountain lions should have the right to exist wherever they may occur.	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people.	<b>-0.82</b>	<b>-0.64</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions.	<b>1.48</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me.	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
The presence of mountain lions near my home increases my overall quality of life.	<b>-0.51</b>	<b>-0.79</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
The presence of mountain lions in South Dakota increases my overall quality of life.	<b>0.16</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals.	<b>-0.66</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
People who live in mountain lion country should modify certain behaviors (e.g., hiking or jogging alone on trails, hunting alone, feeding deer) to decrease the chance of a negative interaction with a mountain lion.	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
Mountain lions help maintain deer populations in balance with their habitats.	<b>1.49</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>10.2%</b>
Mountain lions do not compete with humans for deer.	<b>0.73</b>	<b>-0.26</b>	<b>16.5%</b>

<sup>1</sup>The means for the first four attitude statements (above the bold break-line) are statistically similar. The two samples have statistically different means for the remaining eight attitude statements (below the bold break-line).

## Optional Comments Provided by Survey Respondents

**Table 50.** Optional comments proved by Black Hills deer hunters on their 2004 questionnaire (see Appendix B).<sup>1</sup>

Comments	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>NO</b>	67.4%	54.0%	66.3%
<b>YES</b>	32.6%	46.0%	33.7%
<b>Number</b>	1,872	163	2,035
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=12.00$ ; $df=1$ ; $p=0.001$			

<sup>1</sup>Does not include the eight comments received by e-mail (see Appendix C).

## Understanding Black Hills Deer Hunters:

**Research Question #1:** What is the relationship between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of these parameters?

**Table 51.** Pearson correlation and linear r-square statistics for the relationships between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of these parameters (2004).

Reported number of:	Evaluations of (Pearson correlation / r-square)		
	Deer Seen	Bucks Seen	Quality Bucks Seen
<b>Deer seen</b>	0.311 (0.097)		
<b>Bucks seen</b>		0.318 (0.101)	
<b>Quality bucks seen</b>			0.313 (0.098)

All correlations are significant ( $p<0.001$ ).

**Table 52-A.** Mean number of deer seen analyzed by hunters' evaluations of the number of deer seen during their 1999 - 2004 Black Hills deer hunt.

Hunters' Evaluation of the Total Number of Deer Seen	Mean # Deer Seen					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>1 VERY FEW</b>	16.0	18.4	15.6	14.2	21.6	12.4
<b>2</b>	22.7	22.0	23.2	24.8	26.2	21.2
<b>3</b>	28.0	38.8	26.9	36.9	39.5	32.6
<b>4</b>	39.9	52.4	44.6	48.7	39.3	37.3
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	46.0	66.0	44.8	55.8	63.8	57.5
<b>6</b>	58.3	78.5	54.3	71.7	74.3	59.1
<b>7</b>	60.1	86.0	77.3	81.0	94.5	84.1
<b>8</b>	76.1	109.2	98.1	103.6	116.4	99.1
<b>9 LOTS OF DEER</b>	84.4	140.8	121.6	130.2	133.0	145.2

**Table 52-B.** Mean number of bucks seen analyzed by hunters' evaluations of the number of bucks seen during their 1999 - 2004 Black Hills deer hunt.

<b>Hunters' Evaluation of the Total Number of Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Mean # Bucks Seen</b>					
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>1 VERY FEW</b>	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.6	2.0
<b>2</b>	2.7	3.1	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.6
<b>3</b>	3.7	5.5	4.7	4.4	4.7	5.4
<b>4</b>	5.5	6.0	5.4	7.0	7.4	10.3
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	6.2	8.1	7.1	8.1	8.9	9.5
<b>6</b>	8.5	11.2	10.5	11.5	13.0	12.6
<b>7</b>	9.6	13.4	13.3	12.7	15.0	14.1
<b>8</b>	11.9	16.5	14.1	13.7	20.7	22.1
<b>9 LOTS OF BUCKS</b>	15.0	21.2	22.5	20.7	26.3	32.7

**Table 52-C.** Mean number of "QUALITY" bucks seen analyzed by hunters' evaluations of the "QUALITY" of bucks seen during their 1999 – 2004 Black Hills deer hunt.

<b>Hunters' Evaluation of the "QUALITY" of Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Mean # "QUALITY" Bucks Seen</b>					
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>1 VERY POOR</b>	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
<b>2</b>	0.6	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1
<b>3</b>	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.6
<b>4</b>	1.5	2.4	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.1
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.5	3.1	2.8
<b>6</b>	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.7
<b>7</b>	3.6	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.8
<b>8</b>	2.9	6.0	5.0	5.7	5.9	9.1
<b>9 EXCEPTIONAL</b>	3.3	7.2	7.1	8.1	7.6	8.4

**Research Question #2:** What is the relationship between type of Black Hills deer hunter (based on their most important reason for Black Hills deer hunting) and the various parameters measured in this survey?

**Table 53.** Satisfaction with 1999 - 2004 Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunter type.

1999		2000		2001	
Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>
Nature	1.40	Nature	1.63	Challenge	1.78
Social	1.13	Excitement	1.62	Nature	1.71
Challenge	1.12	Social	1.59	Excitement	1.70
Meat	1.08	Challenge	1.49	Solitude	1.69
Excitement	1.07	Meat	1.38	Social	1.51
Solitude	1.00	Hunting	1.26	Hunting	1.49
Trophy	0.70	Trophy	1.21	Meat	1.47
		Solitude	1.21	Trophy	1.40
F=2.51; df=6/1,674; p=0.020		F=2.14; df=7/1,764; p=0.037		F=1.35; df=7/1,652; p=0.225	

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 =Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 53 – Continued.**

2002			2003		
Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	95% C. I.	Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	95% C. I.
Challenge	1.98	1.72 – 2.24	Excitement	1.87	1.73 – 2.02
Excitement	1.74	1.57 – 1.91	Challenge	1.83	1.57 – 2.08
Nature	1.64	1.52 – 1.77	Nature	1.77	1.64 – 1.90
Social	1.52	1.39 – 1.65	Social	1.74	1.61 – 1.87
Solitude	1.41	0.98 – 1.83	Hunting	1.71	1.35 – 2.07
Trophy	1.23	0.93 – 1.52	Meat	1.52	1.23 – 1.82
Hunting	1.22	0.80 – 1.63	Solitude	1.45	0.91 – 2.00
Meat	1.10	0.77 – 1.44	Trophy	1.38	1.07 – 1.70
			Overall Mean	1.74	1.67 – 1.81
F=4.88; df=7/1,637; p<0.001			F=1.89; df=7/1,729; p=0.067		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 =Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 53 – Continued.**

<b>2004</b>					
<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C. I.</b>	<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C. I.</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	1.90	1.54 – 2.26			
<b>Nature</b>	1.86	1.74 – 1.98			
<b>Social</b>	1.84	1.73 – 1.96			
<b>Excitement</b>	1.81	1.66 – 1.96			
<b>Challenge</b>	1.71	1.43 – 1.99			
<b>Hunting</b>	1.55	1.14 – 1.95			
<b>Meat</b>	1.40	1.09 – 1.70			
<b>Trophy</b>	0.93	0.59 – 1.27			
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>1.68 – 1.81</b>			
F=6.75; df=7/1,834; $p<0.001$					

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 = Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 54.** Percent satisfied with their 2004 Black Hills deer-hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

<b>Hunter Type<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Percent of the 2004 Black Hills Hunters</b>			
	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	86.0%	4.0%	10.0%	50
<b>Nature</b>	86.3%	5.3%	8.5%	531
<b>Social</b>	86.0%	7.1%	6.9%	508
<b>Excitement</b>	84.7%	6.2%	9.1%	339
<b>Challenge</b>	83.1%	6.5%	10.5%	124
<b>Hunting</b>	80.0%	10.9%	9.1%	55
<b>Meat</b>	73.5%	9.6%	16.9%	136
<b>Trophy</b>	66.7%	15.2%	18.2%	99
<b>Average</b>	83.5%	7.0%	9.5%	1,842
Chi-sq=41.31; df=14; $p<0.001$				

<sup>1</sup>Arranged by decreasing mean satisfaction (see Table 53).



**Table 55.** Number of deer seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen during the 2004 Black Hills deer hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

Hunter Type	Number of Deer Seen	Evaluation of the Number of Deer Seen
<b>Trophy</b>	97.8	5.9
<b>Social</b>	86.3	6.4
<b>Excitement</b>	81.2	6.3
<b>Nature</b>	73.1	6.3
<b>Challenge</b>	69.9	6.2
<b>Solitude</b>	60.5	5.6
<b>Hunting</b>	58.7	5.9
<b>Meat</b>	56.4	6.3
ANOVA	F=2.50; df=7/1,822; $p=0.015$	F=2.48; df=7/1,806; $p=0.015$

**Table 56.** Number of bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen during the 2004 Black Hills deer hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

Hunter Type	Number of Bucks Seen	Evaluation of the Number of Bucks Seen
<b>Trophy</b>	17.1	4.9
<b>Social</b>	11.4	5.0
<b>Excitement</b>	11.2	5.1
<b>Challenge</b>	10.8	5.3
<b>Hunting</b>	10.4	4.9
<b>Nature</b>	9.9	4.9
<b>Solitude</b>	8.9	4.9
<b>Meat</b>	8.9	4.6
ANOVA	F=2.05; df=7/1,836; $p=0.046$	F=1.41; df=7/1,798; $p=0.196$

**Table 57.** Number of quality bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of quality bucks seen during the 2004 Black Hills deer hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

Hunter Type	Number of Quality Bucks Seen	Evaluation of the "Quality" of Bucks Seen
<b>Trophy</b>	3.8	4.3
<b>Social</b>	3.6	4.9
<b>Challenge</b>	3.2	5.1
<b>Excitement</b>	3.1	5.0
<b>Nature</b>	2.7	4.6
<b>Meat</b>	2.7	4.7
<b>Hunting</b>	2.6	4.6
<b>Solitude</b>	1.9	4.6
ANOVA	F=1.17; df=7/1,824; $p=0.316$	F=2.70; df=7/1,745; $p=0.009$

**Table 58.** Success in harvesting a deer analyzed by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	% Unsuccessful	% Successful
Meat	24.7%	75.3%
Excitement	30.6%	69.4%
Hunting	36.1%	63.9%
Challenge	36.4%	63.6%
Social	37.6%	62.4%
Trophy	39.8%	60.2%
Nature	40.6%	59.4%
Solitude	42.6%	57.4%
Overall Average	36.4%	63.6%
Chi-sq.=20.01; df=7; $p=0.006$		

**Table 59.** Success (doe vs. buck) analyzed by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Unsuccessful	% Does	% Bucks	% Bucks to Does <sup>1</sup>
Meat	24.7%	30.1%	45.2%	60.0%
Excitement	30.6%	12.3%	57.1%	82.3%
Hunting	36.1%	6.6%	57.4%	89.7%
Challenge	36.4%	13.2%	50.4%	79.3%
Social	37.6%	13.3%	49.1%	78.7%
Trophy	39.8%	7.8%	52.4%	87.1%
Nature	40.6%	14.2%	45.2%	76.1%
Solitude	42.6%	9.3%	48.1%	83.9%
Average	36.4%	14.0%	49.6%	78.0%
Chi-sq.=54.95; df=14; $p<0.001$				

<sup>1</sup>Of those successful, percent harvesting bucks.

**Table 60-A.** Black Hills deer hunter attitudes related to “harvest” analyzed (mean attitude) by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.</b>		
Solitude	1.56	1.35 – 1.76
Nature	1.46	1.39 – 1.53
Challenge	1.40	1.24 – 1.55
Social	1.35	1.27 – 1.42
Excitement	1.17	1.07 – 1.27
Hunting	1.02	0.75 – 1.29
Trophy	0.90	0.67 – 1.14
Meat	0.51	0.30 – 0.72
Average	1.26	1.22 – 1.31
F=21.37; df=7/1,972; $p<0.001$		
<b>Filling my Black Hills deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.</b>		
Meat	1.31	1.12 – 1.49
Trophy	0.58	0.34 – 0.83
Hunting	0.48	0.19 – 0.77
Excitement	0.37	0.46 – 0.68
Challenge	0.33	0.11 – 0.55
Nature	0.21	0.12 – 0.31
Social	0.19	0.10 – 0.29
Solitude	0.13	-0.12 – 0.47
Average	0.38	0.33 – 0.44
F=19.29; df=7/1,971; $p<0.001$		
<b>I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.</b>		
Trophy	0.31	0.03 – 0.59
Excitement	-0.22	-0.37 – -0.06
Social	-0.24	-0.37 – -0.11
Solitude	-0.28	-0.71 – 0.16
Hunting	-0.33	-0.73 – 0.06
Challenge	-0.33	-0.61 – -0.04
Nature	-0.35	-0.48 – -0.23
Meat	-1.36	-1.54 – -1.18
Average	-0.33	-0.40 – -0.26
F=13.16; df=7/1,970; $p<0.001$		
<b>Table 60-A. Continued on next page</b>		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree=2; Slightly Agree=1; Neutral/No Opinion=0; Slightly Disagree=-1; Strongly Dissagree=-2

**Table 60-A. Continued.** Black Hills deer hunter attitudes related to “harvest” analyzed (mean attitude) by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.</b>		
<b>Trophy</b>	1.13	0.89 – 1.36
<b>Challenge</b>	0.38	0.12 – 0.64
<b>Excitement</b>	0.26	0.12 – 0.41
<b>Solitude</b>	0.19	-0.23 – 0.60
<b>Hunting</b>	0.08	-0.28 – 0.43
<b>Social</b>	0.06	-0.06 – 0.17
<b>Nature</b>	-0.20	-0.32 – -0.08
<b>Meat</b>	-1.01	-1.21 – -0.81
<b>Average</b>	0.02	-0.04 – 0.09
F=25.22; df=7/1,973; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree=2; Slightly Agree=1; Neutral/No Opinion=0; Slightly Disagree=-1; Strongly Dissagree=-2

**Table 60-B.** Black Hills deer hunter attitudes related to “harvest” analyzed (percent agreement) by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Agree <sup>1</sup>	Neutral	Disagree <sup>1</sup>
<b>A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.</b>			
<b>Solitude</b>	92.6%	3.7%	3.7%
<b>Nature</b>	89.5%	5.2%	5.3%
<b>Challenge</b>	89.1%	5.5%	5.5%
<b>Social</b>	88.1%	5.2%	6.7%
<b>Excitement</b>	82.4%	9.0%	8.7%
<b>Hunting</b>	78.7%	9.8%	11.5%
<b>Trophy</b>	76.7%	8.7%	14.6%
<b>Meat</b>	60.1%	16.1%	23.8%
<b>Average</b>	84.7%	7.0%	8.3%
Chi-Sq.=98.58; df=14; $p<0.001$			
<b>Table 60-B. Continued on next page</b>			

<sup>1</sup>Slightly and Strongly categories combined.

**Table 60-B.** Continued. Black Hills deer hunter attitudes related to “harvest” analyzed (percent agreement) by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Agree <sup>1</sup>	Neutral	Disagree <sup>1</sup>
<b>Filling my Black Hills deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.</b>			
Meat	83.2%	6.3%	10.5%
Excitement	62.5%	18.5%	19.0%
Trophy	60.2%	18.4%	21.4%
Hunting	56.7%	26.7%	16.7%
Challenge	54.3%	17.8%	27.9%
Nature	47.9%	24.3%	27.8%
Social	46.8%	26.8%	26.4%
Solitude	46.3%	22.2%	31.5%
Average	54.1%	21.9%	24.0%
Chi-Sq.=88.34; df=14; $p<0.001$			
<b>I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.</b>			
Trophy	49.5%	17.5%	33.0%
Solitude	35.2%	9.3%	55.6%
Social	34.2%	17.6%	48.2%
Excitement	34.2%	16.8%	49.0%
Challenge	33.6%	10.9%	55.5%
Nature	32.2%	14.8%	53.0%
Hunting	28.3%	20.0%	51.7%
Meat	9.1%	7.7%	83.2%
Average	32.4%	15.3%	52.3%
Chi-Sq.=83.07; df=14; $p<0.001$			
<b>I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.</b>			
Trophy	77.7%	9.7%	12.6%
Challenge	56.6%	11.6%	31.8%
Solitude	53.7%	9.3%	37.0%
Excitement	52.7%	14.3%	33.1%
Social	45.0%	16.8%	38.2%
Hunting	41.0%	21.3%	37.7%
Nature	36.8%	15.3%	47.8%
Meat	15.4%	16.8%	67.8%
Average	44.4%	15.1%	40.4%
Chi-Sq.=140.93; df=14; $p<0.001$			

<sup>1</sup>Slightly and Strongly categories combined.

**Table 61-A.** How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (mean score) by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
Meat	2.50	2.37 – 2.63
Trophy	2.10	1.93 – 2.26
Excitement	1.90	1.81 – 1.98
Hunting	1.79	1.58 – 1.99
Challenge	1.71	1.56 – 1.86
Solitude	1.56	1.30 – 1.81
Social	1.54	1.46 – 1.61
Nature	1.51	1.44 – 1.58
Average	1.71	1.67 -1.75
F=31.27; df=7/1,971; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not important or No Opinion=0.

**Table 61-B.** How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (percent) by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Importance of Filling Black Hills Deer Tag			
	Very	Moderately	Slightly	Not or No Opinion
Meat	63.9%	27.1%	4.2%	4.9%
Trophy	35.0%	46.6%	11.7%	6.8%
Excitement	23.0%	49.0%	22.7%	5.3%
Hunting	18.0%	47.5%	29.5%	4.9%
Challenge	17.8%	43.4%	30.2%	8.5%
Solitude	14.8%	40.7%	29.6%	14.8%
Social	11.4%	42.7%	34.0%	11.9%
Nature	11.4%	43.9%	29.1%	15.6%
Average	19.3%	43.4%	26.7%	10.7%
Chi-sq.=298.05; df=21; $p<0.001$				

**Table 62.** Hunter evaluation of the hunting conditions in terms of numbers of other hunters analyzed by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Crowding conditions were				
	Just Right	Not Enough	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Very Crowded
<b>Solitude</b>	73.5%	2.0%	16.3%	4.1%	4.1%
<b>Nature</b>	69.2%	6.0%	16.3%	6.0%	2.4%
<b>Social</b>	68.0%	8.5%	18.5%	4.1%	0.8%
<b>Hunting</b>	67.9%	9.4%	17.0%	3.8%	1.9%
<b>Excitement</b>	66.7%	6.5%	19.5%	5.9%	1.5%
<b>Challenge</b>	62.6%	4.1%	22.8%	7.3%	3.3%
<b>Trophy</b>	62.2%	6.1%	15.3%	10.2%	6.1%
<b>Meat</b>	61.7%	6.8%	24.1%	4.5%	3.0%
<b>Average</b>	67.1%	6.7%	18.5%	5.6%	2.1%
Chi-sq.=36.07; df=28; $p=0.141$					

**Table 63-A.** How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (mean score) by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Solitude</b>	2.48	2.26 – 2.70
<b>Challenge</b>	2.39	2.26 – 2.52
<b>Nature</b>	2.33	2.26 – 2.39
<b>Excitement</b>	2.33	2.26 – 2.40
<b>Hunting</b>	2.31	2.14 – 2.48
<b>Trophy</b>	2.29	2.11 – 2.48
<b>Meat</b>	2.20	2.05 – 2.35
<b>Social</b>	2.08	2.00 – 2.15
<b>Average</b>	2.25	2.22 – 2.29
F=6.04; df=7/1,970; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not important or No Opinion=0.

**Table 63-B.** How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (percent) by hunter type (2004).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Importance of Having an Un-Crowded, Undisturbed Hunting Trip</b>			
	<b>Very</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>Slightly</b>	<b>Not or No Opinion</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	63.0%	25.9%	7.4%	3.7%
<b>Trophy</b>	53.9%	29.4%	8.8%	7.8%
<b>Challenge</b>	53.1%	35.2%	9.4%	2.3%
<b>Nature</b>	49.8%	35.5%	12.1%	2.6%
<b>Meat</b>	45.8%	36.1%	10.4%	7.6%
<b>Excitement</b>	44.8%	44.8%	9.0%	1.4%
<b>Hunting</b>	41.0%	50.8%	6.6%	1.6%
<b>Social</b>	36.6%	41.5%	14.8%	7.0%
<b>Average</b>	45.4%	38.8%	11.5%	4.2%
Chi-sq.=73.13; df=21; $p<0.001$				

**Table 64-A.** Mean rating of importance of **Black Hills deer hunting** in relation to all other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by hunter type (2004).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Mean Importance Rating<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Challenge</b>	2.97	2.80 – 3.14
<b>Excitement</b>	2.92	2.84 – 3.01
<b>Solitude</b>	2.87	2.64 – 3.10
<b>Trophy</b>	2.84	2.63 – 3.06
<b>Meat</b>	2.73	2.56 – 2.91
<b>Nature</b>	2.73	2.66 – 2.81
<b>Social</b>	2.73	2.64 – 2.81
<b>Hunting</b>	2.61	2.35 – 2.86
<b>Average</b>	2.79	2.74 – 2.82
F=2.75 df=7/1,977; $p=0.008$		

<sup>1</sup>Importance Scale: Most Important=4, Very Importance=3, Moderately Importance=2, Slightly Important=1, Not Important or No Opinion=0



**Table 64-B.** Importance of **Black Hills deer hunting** in relation to all other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting				
	Most	Very	Moderately	Slightly	Not or No Opinion
<b>Trophy</b>	34.0%	32.0%	23.3%	5.8%	4.9%
<b>Challenge</b>	33.1%	43.1%	13.8%	7.7%	2.3%
<b>Excitement</b>	25.9%	46.5%	22.6%	4.2%	0.8%
<b>Social</b>	24.7%	37.4%	27.3%	7.4%	3.2%
<b>Meat</b>	23.1%	44.1%	20.3%	8.4%	4.2%
<b>Solitude</b>	22.2%	50.0%	20.4%	7.4%	0.0%
<b>Nature</b>	20.7%	42.0%	29.3%	6.0%	2.1%
<b>Hunting</b>	18.0%	41.0%	27.9%	9.8%	3.3%
<b>Average</b>	24.4%	41.4%	25.2%	6.5%	2.5%
Chi-sq.=52.70; df=28; $p=0.003$					

**Table 65.** Mean number of days hunting during the 2004 Black Hills deer season analyzed for each license type by hunter type.

Hunter Type	Mean Number Days Hunting (95% C.I.)	
	License Type 52 30 Day Season	License Type 01/06 10 Day Season
<b>Trophy</b>	6.72 (5.56 – 7.88)	2.00 (0.95 – 3.05)
<b>Challenge</b>	6.36 (5.13 – 7.58)	2.68 (1.95 – 3.41)
<b>Hunting</b>	5.54 (3.55 – 7.53)	2.40 (1.00 – 3.80)
<b>Solitude</b>	5.28 (4.03 – 6.54)	2.00 (1.07 – 2.93)
<b>Excitement</b>	4.92 (4.44 – 5.40)	1.93 (1.57 – 2.30)
<b>Meat</b>	4.63 (3.68 – 5.57)	2.62 (2.10 – 3.13)
<b>Social</b>	4.46 (4.10 – 4.83)	2.44 (2.10 – 2.79)
<b>Nature</b>	4.40 (4.04 – 4.75)	2.45 (2.14 – 2.76)
<b>Average</b>	4.85 (4.63 – 5.08)	2.38 (2.21 – 2.56)
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=5.52; df=7/1,465; $p<0.001$	F=1.03; df=7/481; $p=0.412$

**Table 66.** Years of experience hunting deer in the Black Hills analyzed by hunter type (2004).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Mean Years of Black Hills Deer Hunting Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	20.2	16.2 – 24.1
<b>Challenge</b>	14.6	12.2 – 17.0
<b>Social</b>	13.7	12.6 – 14.8
<b>Nature</b>	13.6	12.5 – 14.7
<b>Excitement</b>	13.3	11.9 – 14.7
<b>Trophy</b>	12.6	9.9 – 15.3
<b>Hunting</b>	10.5	7.5 – 13.4
<b>Meat</b>	9.0	7.3 – 10.8
<b>Average</b>	13.3	12.8 – 13.9
F=5.04; df=7/1,915; $p=0.001$		

**Table 67.** Age of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by hunter type.

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Age (years)</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	50.1	46.5 – 53.8
<b>Nature</b>	44.3	43.0 – 45.5
<b>Challenge</b>	43.1	40.3 – 45.9
<b>Hunting</b>	42.3	38.8 – 45.8
<b>Social</b>	42.0	40.7 – 43.3
<b>Excitement</b>	41.1	39.4 – 42.7
<b>Meat</b>	40.1	37.6 – 42.6
<b>Trophy</b>	37.0	33.6 – 40.4
<b>Average</b>	42.4	41.7 – 43.1
F=5.68; df=7/1,948; $p=0.001$		

**Table 68.** Sex of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by hunter type.

Types of Black Hills Deer Hunters	SEX	
	Male (N=1,809)	Female (N=148)
Hunting	96.7%	3.3%
Solitude	96.2%	3.8%
Trophy	96.0%	4.0%
Social	94.3%	5.7%
Excitement	93.8%	6.2%
Nature	93.0%	7.0%
Challenge	92.2%	7.8%
Meat	74.1%	25.9%
Average	92.4%	7.6%
Chi-sq.=76.97; df=7; $p<0.001$		

**Table 69.** Antler size (total number of points) of buck harvested analyzed by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Whitetail Buck Harvested		Mule Deer Buck Harvested	
	Points	# in Sample	Points	# in Sample
Challenge	8.6	47	5.8	17
Trophy	8.5	48	7.5	6
Hunting	8.2	27	6.4	8
Nature	8.1	193	5.6	67
Social	7.9	197	5.8	74
Solitude	7.9	14	5.3	10
Excitement	7.8	162	5.9	43
Meat	7.3	47	4.5	15
Average	8.0	735	5.7	240
ANOVA	F=2.28; df=7/727; $p=0.027$		F=1.69; df=7/232; $p=0.113$	

**Table 70.** Comments provided by survey respondents analyzed by hunter types (2004).

Hunter Type	Optional Comments Provided on the Survey Response	
	NO (N=1,317)	YES <sup>1</sup> (N=676)
<b>Challenge</b>	56.9%	43.1%
<b>Solitude</b>	57.4%	42.6%
<b>Excitement</b>	63.2%	36.8%
<b>Nature</b>	66.8%	33.2%
<b>Hunting</b>	67.2%	32.8%
<b>Trophy</b>	68.0%	32.0%
<b>Social</b>	68.7%	31.3%
<b>Meat</b>	69.9%	30.1%
<b>Average</b>	66.1%	33.9%
Pearson Chi-square: $X=10.94$ ; $df=7$ ; $p=0.141$		

<sup>1</sup>This does not include the 8 comments received by e-mail.



**Research Question #3:** What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and the various parameters measured in this survey, i.e., which variables are the best predictors of satisfaction?

**Table 71.** Pearson correlation between satisfaction<sup>1</sup> with 2004 Black Hills deer season and 19 variables measured in this survey.

<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation<sup>8</sup></b>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.370 <sup>9</sup>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.343 <sup>9</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.341 <sup>9</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.308 <sup>9</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.295 <sup>9</sup>
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-0.217 <sup>9</sup>
<b>17a</b>	Satisfaction if unsuccessful <sup>4</sup>	0.199 <sup>9</sup>
<b>11</b>	Importance of Black Hills deer hunting <sup>5</sup>	0.124 <sup>9</sup>
<b>8</b>	Number of quality bucks seen	0.119 <sup>9</sup>
<b>6</b>	Number of bucks seen	0.103 <sup>9</sup>
<b>26</b>	Residence (SD=1, other=2)	0.076 <sup>9</sup>
<b>4</b>	Number of deer seen	0.075 <sup>9</sup>
<b>12</b>	Years of Black Hills deer hunting	0.061 <sup>9</sup>
<b>16</b>	Importance of having an un-crowded hunt <sup>6</sup>	0.059 <sup>9</sup>
<b>15</b>	Importance of harvest success <sup>6</sup>	-0.055 <sup>10</sup>
<b>27</b>	Gender (Male=1, Female=2)	0.050 <sup>10</sup>
<b>27</b>	Age	0.049 <sup>10</sup>
<b>17b</b>	Interest in buck hunting <sup>7</sup>	0.034 <sup>11</sup>
<b>17d</b>	Interest in "large" buck hunting <sup>7</sup>	0.016 <sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix A

<sup>3</sup>Crowding was re-coded as: 1 = Just Right/Not Crowded; 2 = Slightly Crowded / Not Enough Hunters; 3 = Moderately Crowded; 4 = Very Crowded

<sup>4</sup>Satisfaction if unsuccessful. Question worded as: A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer. Re-coded as: -2 = Strongly Disagree; -1 = Slightly Disagree; 0 = Neutral / No Opinion; 1 = Slightly Agree; 2 = Strongly Agree

<sup>5</sup>Importance of Black Hills deer hunting re-coded as: 0 = Not Important or No Opinion; 1 = Slightly Important; 2 = Moderately Important; 3 = Very Important; 4 = Most Important

<sup>6</sup>Importance of having an un-crowded hunting and Importance of harvest success was re-coded: 3 = Very Important; 2 = Moderately Important; 1 = Slightly Important; 0 = Not Important or No Opinion

<sup>7</sup>Interest in buck hunting and Interest in "large" buck hunting re-coded as: -2 = Strongly Disagree; -1 = Slightly Disagree; 0 = Neutral / No Opinion; 1 = Slightly Agree; 2 = Strongly Agree

<sup>8</sup>Means for all the variables in Table 71:

<b>Question #</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>3</b>	Satisfaction	1.74	1,873
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	4.98	1,812
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	6.27	1,844
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	4.80	1,759
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	1.12	2,035
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.63	2,035
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	1.43	1,841
<b>17a</b>	Satisfaction if unsuccessful <sup>4</sup>	1.27	2,017
<b>11</b>	Importance of Black Hills deer hunting <sup>5</sup>	2.78	1,996
<b>8</b>	Number of quality bucks seen	3.1	1,838
<b>6</b>	Number of bucks seen	10.9	1,876
<b>26</b>	Residence (SD=1, other=2)	1.08	2,078
<b>4</b>	Number of deer seen	77.4	1,861
<b>12</b>	Years of Black Hills deer hunting	13.3	1,931
<b>16</b>	Importance of having an un-crowded hunt <sup>6</sup>	2.25	2,014
<b>15</b>	Importance of harvest success <sup>6</sup>	1.71	2,014
<b>27</b>	Gender (Male=1, Female=2)	1.08	1,993
<b>27</b>	Age	42.5	1,993
<b>17b</b>	Interest in buck hunting <sup>7</sup>	-0.35	2,015
<b>17d</b>	Interest in "large" buck hunting <sup>7</sup>	0.02	2,018

<sup>9</sup>Significant @ 0.01 level (2-tailed)

<sup>10</sup>Significant @ 0.05 level (2-tailed)

<sup>11</sup>Note: Shaded variables in Table 71 do not have a significant correlation with satisfaction

**Table 72.** The seven variables with the highest correlation with satisfaction<sup>1</sup> for each of the identified hunter types (2004).

<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Meat Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.562 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.535 <sup>7</sup>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.267 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.213 <sup>8</sup>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.201 <sup>8</sup>
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-0.193 <sup>8</sup>
<b>27</b>	Age	-0.151 <sup>9</sup>
<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Excitement Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.324 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.309 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.308 <sup>7</sup>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.304 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.304 <sup>7</sup>
<b>17a</b>	Satisfaction if unsuccessful <sup>4</sup>	0.195 <sup>7</sup>
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-0.153 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Nature Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.360 <sup>7</sup>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.336 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.314 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.288 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.260 <sup>7</sup>
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-0.258 <sup>7</sup>
<b>17a</b>	Satisfaction if unsuccessful <sup>4</sup>	0.135 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Social Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.385 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.345 <sup>7</sup>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.309 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.296 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.298 <sup>7</sup>
<b>17a</b>	Satisfaction if unsuccessful <sup>4</sup>	0.232 <sup>7</sup>
<b>6</b>	Number of bucks seen	0.182 <sup>7</sup>

Table 72 continued on next page.

**Table 72.** Continued. The seven variables with the highest correlation with satisfaction<sup>1</sup> for each of the identified hunter types (2003).

<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Solitude Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.524 <sup>7</sup>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.479 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.478 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.398 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.352 <sup>8</sup>
<b>17b</b>	Interest in buck hunting <sup>5</sup>	-0.322 <sup>8</sup>
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-0.259 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Trophy Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.513 <sup>7</sup>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.500 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.471 <sup>7</sup>
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-0.280 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.271 <sup>7</sup>
<b>15</b>	Importance of harvest success <sup>6</sup>	0.264 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.249 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Challenge Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen	0.543 <sup>7</sup>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.515 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.460 <sup>7</sup>
<b>10</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-0.301 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.292 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.227 <sup>8</sup>
<b>4</b>	Number of deer seen	0.197 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Hunting Opportunist Hunters</b> <b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck)	0.530 <sup>7</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck)	0.508 <sup>7</sup>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen	0.473 <sup>7</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen	0.317 <sup>8</sup>
<b>17a</b>	Satisfaction if unsuccessful <sup>4</sup>	0.307 <sup>8</sup>
<b>8</b>	Number of quality bucks seen	0.305 <sup>8</sup>
<b>16</b>	Importance of having an un-crowded hunt <sup>6</sup>	0.241 <sup>9</sup>

Table 72 continued on next page.



<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix A

<sup>3</sup>Crowding was re-coded as: 1 = Just Right/Not Crowded; 2 = Slightly Crowded / Not Enough Hunters; 3 = Moderately Crowded; 4 = Very Crowded

<sup>4</sup>Satisfaction if unsuccessful. Question worded as: A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer. Re-coded as: -2 = Strongly Disagree; -1 = Slightly Disagree; 0 = Neutral / No Opinion; 1 = Slightly Agree; 2 = Strongly Agree

<sup>5</sup>Interest in buck hunting re-coded as: -2 = Strongly Disagree; -1 = Slightly Disagree; 0 = Neutral / No Opinion; 1 = Slightly Agree; 2 = Strongly Agree

<sup>6</sup>Importance of having an un-crowded hunting and Importance of harvest success was re-coded: 3 = Very Important; 2 = Moderately Important; 1 = Slightly Important; 0 = Not Important or No Opinion

<sup>7</sup>Significant @ 0.01 level (2-tailed)

<sup>8</sup>Significant @ 0.05 level (2-tailed)

<sup>9</sup>Does not have a significant correlation with satisfaction

**Table 73.** Hunters' mean satisfaction level<sup>1</sup> analyzed by their evaluation of crowding and hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Hunters' Evaluation of Crowding Conditions				
	Not Enough Hunters	Just Right – Not Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded <sup>2</sup>	Very Crowded <sup>2</sup>
<b>Nature</b>	1.26	2.03	1.85	0.84	
<b>Social</b>	1.81	1.96	1.51	1.40	
<b>Excitement</b>	1.41	1.96	1.62	1.33	
<b>Meat</b>	0.44	1.65	1.74	0.20	
<b>Challenge</b>	1.60	1.94	1.71	0.54	
<b>Trophy</b>	0.83	1.13	1.47	-0.25	
<b>Hunting</b>	2.00	1.75	1.00	1.33	
<b>Solitude</b>	2.00	2.00	2.13	0.50	
<b>Overall</b>	1.44	1.92	1.66	1.21	-0.16
ANOVA: F=29.96; df=4/1,819; $p < 0.001$ Note <sup>4</sup>					

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>Categories of Moderately Crowded and Very Crowded were combined due to small group sample size.

<sup>3</sup>Shaded cells have small sample sizes (n<9).

<sup>4</sup>For all hunter types except the Hunting and Solitude relationship between satisfaction and the hunter's evaluation of crowding conditions was significant at the 0.05 alpha level.

Overall satisfaction analyzed by hunter type → see Table 53

**Table 74.** Mean number of deer seen and mean evaluation of the number of deer seen analyzed by hunter's satisfaction level (2004).

Satisfaction level	Mean Number of Deer Seen	Mean Evaluation of the Number of Deer Seen <sup>1</sup>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	74.8	5.4
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	81.8	5.1
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	54.4	4.8
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	54.2	5.2
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	60.1	5.4
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	81.5	6.3
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	85.9	7.0
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=3.63; df=6/1,841; $p=0.001$	F=52.61; df=6/1,823; $p<0.001$

<sup>1</sup>See Table 18

**Table 75.** Mean number of bucks seen and mean evaluation of the number of bucks seen analyzed by hunter's satisfaction level (2004).

Satisfaction level	Mean Number of Bucks Seen	Mean Evaluation of the Number of Bucks Seen <sup>1</sup>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	8.2	3.7
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	9.6	4.0
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	6.1	3.2
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	6.7	3.7
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	8.3	4.1
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	11.1	4.9
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	13.2	5.9
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=4.56; df=6/1,855; $p<0.001$	F=61.47; df=6/1,788; $p<0.001$

<sup>1</sup>See Table 19

**Table 76.** Mean number of quality bucks seen and mean evaluation of the quality of bucks seen analyzed by hunter's satisfaction level (2004).

Satisfaction level	Mean Number of Quality Bucks Seen	Mean Evaluation of the Quality of Bucks Seen <sup>1</sup>
Very Dissatisfied	2.6	3.7
Moderately Dissatisfied	2.5	3.8
Slightly Dissatisfied	1.4	3.2
Neutral/No Opinion	1.8	3.4
Slightly Satisfied	2.0	4.1
Moderately Satisfied	2.7	4.7
Very Satisfied	4.3	5.7
ANOVA	F=7.62; df=6/1,814; $p<0.001$	F=49.82; df=6/1,735; $p<0.001$

<sup>1</sup>See Table 20

**Table 77.** Relationship between hunters' attitudes toward the importance of success to satisfaction (*see Table 33*) and hunters' satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience, and correlations with hunter types.

A Black Hills hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.	Overall		Successful Hunters	
	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,2</sup>	95% C.I.	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,3</sup>	95% C.I.
Strongly Agree	1.98	1.90 – 2.07	2.23	2.12 – 2.34
Slightly Agree	1.64	1.52 – 1.75	2.01	1.91 – 2.11
Neutral / No Opinion	1.39	1.12 – 1.66	1.64	1.64 – 1.92
Slightly Disagree	1.14	0.84 – 1.44	1.66	1.66 – 1.94
Strongly Disagree	0.79	0.19 – 1.38	1.28	1.28 – 1.82
Average	1.75	1.68 – 1.81	2.04	1.97 – 2.11
<sup>2</sup> ANOVA: F=19.31; df=4/1,857; $p<0.001$ / <sup>3</sup> ANOVA: F=10.82; df=4/1,263; $p<0.001$				
Hunter Types	Overall Pearson Correlation		Significant	
Nature	0.135		=0.002	
Social	0.232		<0.001	
Excitement	0.195		<0.001	
Meat	0.099		=0.258	
Challenge	0.163		=0.073	
Trophy	0.199		=0.048	
Hunting	0.307		=0.023	
Solitude	0.062		=0.671	
Overall	0.199		<0.001	

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0=Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Information related to Table 77 continued on next page.

Information continued from Table 77:

Note: the pattern for unsuccessful hunters:

<b>A Black Hills hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.</b>	<b>Unsuccessful Hunters</b>	
	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	1.61	1.47 – 1.75
<b>Slightly Agree</b>	0.42	0.15 – 0.68
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	0.22	-0.45 – 0.88
<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	-0.65	-1.19 – -0.12
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	-0.31	-1.75 – 1.14
<b>Average</b>	1.12	0.99 – 1.25
ANOVA: $F=33.26$ ; $df=4/588$ ; $p<0.001$		

**Table 78.** Relationship between the importance of Black Hills deer hunting (*see Table 30*) and hunters' satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>How important is Black Hills deer hunting to <u>you</u> in relation to <u>all</u> your other types of recreation?</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>My MOST important activity</b>	1.87	1.73 – 2.00
<b>Very Important (but not the MOST important)</b>	1.91	1.81 – 2.01
<b>Moderately Important</b>	1.55	1.41 – 1.68
<b>Slightly Important</b>	1.31	1.04 – 1.59
<b>Not Important</b>	1.00	0.26 – 1.74
<b>No Opinion</b>	1.63	0.69 – 2.56
<b>Average</b>	1.75	1.69 – 1.82
ANOVA: $F=8.01$ ; $df=5/1,838$ ; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 79.** Relationship between state residence (*see Table 3*) and residence within South Dakota (*see Table 6*) with hunters' satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>State Residence</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	1.71	1.64 – 1.78
<b>other state</b>	2.12	1.92 – 2.32
<b>Average</b>	1.74	1.68 – 1.81
ANOVA: F=10.85; df=1/1,871; p=0.001		
<b>Residence in South Dakota (zone)</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Black Hills</b>	1.72	1.63 – 1.81
<b>West River</b>	1.93	1.59 – 2.26
<b>East River</b>	1.84	1.72 – 1.96
<b>Average</b>	1.77	1.70 – 1.84
ANOVA: F=1.61; df=2/1,501; p=0.200		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 80.** Relationship between age (*see Table 7*) and hunters' satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>Age Category</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>12 – 19</b>	1.53	1.28 – 1.77
<b>20 – 29</b>	1.79	1.63 – 1.95
<b>30 – 39</b>	1.71	1.56 – 1.86
<b>40 – 49</b>	1.67	1.53 – 1.82
<b>50 – 59</b>	1.99	1.86 – 2.12
<b>60 – 69</b>	1.71	1.48 – 1.94
<b>70 – 79</b>	1.81	1.42 – 2.19
<b>80 – 89</b>	1.50	-0.87 – 3.87
<b>Average</b>	1.75	1.69 – 1.82
ANOVA: F=2.28; df=7/1,831; p=0.026		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 81.** Relationship between gender (*see Table 7*) and hunters' satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Male</b>	1.77	1.70 – 1.84
<b>Female</b>	1.50	1.20 – 1.79
<b>Average</b>	1.75	1.68 – 1.82
ANOVA: F=4.62; df=2/1,838; p=0.032		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 82.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (*Table 32*) analyzed by hunter's satisfaction level (2004).<sup>1</sup>

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Mean Years of Black Hills Deer Hunting Experience</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	13.9	9.9 – 18.0
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	12.7	8.2 – 17.3
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	11.4	8.5 – 14.2
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	11.0	8.9 – 13.0
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	11.3	9.6 – 13.0
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	14.1	13.1 – 15.1
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	14.2	13.2 – 15.3
<b>Average</b>	13.4	12.8 – 14.0
ANOVA: F=2.73; df=2/1,777; p=0.012		

<sup>1</sup>Residents and nonresidents combined - sample size was too small to run nonresidents separately.

**Table 83.** Relationship between hunters' attitudes toward the importance of success (see Table 35) and hunters' satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

Filling my Black Hills deer tag is...?	Overall			
	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,2</sup>	95% C.I.		
Not Important	1.94	1.73 – 2.14		
Slightly Important	1.83	1.70 – 1.96		
Moderately Important	1.77	1.68 – 1.86		
Very Important	1.55	1.38 – 1.72		
No Opinion	0.93	0.12 – 1.73		
Average	1.74	1.68 – 1.81		
<sup>2</sup> ANOVA: F=5.00; df=4/1,856; <i>p</i> =0.001				
Filling my Black Hills deer tag is...?	Successful Hunters		Unsuccessful Hunters	
	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,3</sup>	95% C.I.	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,4</sup>	95% C.I.
Not Important	2.38	2.13 – 2.64	1.64	1.36 – 1.92
Slightly Important	2.06	1.89 – 2.23	1.52	1.33 – 1.72
Moderately Important	2.06	1.97 – 2.15	0.95	0.75 – 1.15
Very Important	1.90	1.75 – 2.05	-0.21	-0.74 – 0.32
No Opinion	1.87	1.06 – 2.67	-0.25	-1.58 – 1.08
Average	2.04	1.97 – 2.11	1.12	0.99 – 1.25
<sup>3</sup> ANOVA: F=2.26; df=4/1,261; <i>p</i> =0.060 / <sup>4</sup> ANOVA: F=20.89; df=4/589; <i>p</i> <0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Table 84.** Relationship between hunters' attitudes toward the importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting experience (*see Table 37*) and hunters' satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

Having an un-crowded, undisturbed Black Hills deer hunting trip is...?	Overall			
	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,2</sup>	95% C.I.		
Not Important	1.59	1.18 – 2.01		
Slightly Important	1.65	1.44 – 1.86		
Moderately Important	1.74	1.64 – 1.84		
Very Important	1.81	1.71 – 1.91		
No Opinion	0.92	0.27 – 1.57		
Average	1.74	1.68 – 1.81		
<sup>2</sup> ANOVA: F=2.80; df=4/1,856; p=0.025				
Having an un-crowded, undisturbed Black Hills deer hunting trip is...?	Successful Hunters		Unsuccessful Hunters	
	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,3</sup>	95% C.I.	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,4</sup>	95% C.I.
Not Important	2.08	1.76 – 2.40	0.53	-0.47 – 1.53
Slightly Important	1.90	1.66 – 2.15	1.19	0.81 – 1.58
Moderately Important	1.98	1.87 – 2.09	1.15	0.94 – 1.37
Very Important	2.14	2.03 – 2.24	1.14	0.95 – 1.34
No Opinion	1.33	0.53 – 2.13	0.30	-0.87 – 1.47
Average	2.04	1.97 – 2.11	1.12	0.99 – 1.25
<sup>3</sup> ANOVA: F=2.70; df=4/1,262; p=0.030 / <sup>4</sup> ANOVA: F=1.25; df=4/588; p=0.287				

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied



**Table 85.** Relationship between hunters' attitudes toward the importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting experience (*see Table 37*) and their evaluations of their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience (*Table 22*) analyzed by the impact on satisfactions with their 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

Having an un-crowded, undisturbed Black Hills deer hunting trip is...?	Conditions Just Right		Slightly Crowded	
	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,2</sup>	Sample Size	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,3</sup>	Sample Size
Not Important/No Opinion	1.68	38	1.60	5
Slightly Important	1.68	147	1.78	32
Moderately Important	1.88	477	1.60	141
Very Important	2.03	556	1.71	156
Average	1.92	1,218	1.67	334
<sup>2</sup> ANOVA: F=3.28; df=3/1,214; p=0.020 / <sup>3</sup> ANOVA: F=0.22; df=3/330; p=0.881				
Having an un-crowded, undisturbed Black Hills deer hunting trip is...?	Moderately Crowded		Very Crowded	
	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,4</sup>	Sample Size	Mean Satisfaction <sup>1,5</sup>	Sample Size
Not Important/No Opinion	0.00	3	-1.00	1
Slightly Important	1.67	6	0.00	1
Moderately Important	1.13	30	0.25	4
Very Important	1.26	62	-0.19	32
Average	1.21	101	-0.16	38
<sup>4</sup> ANOVA: F=0.71; df=3/97; p=0.547 / <sup>5</sup> ANOVA: F=0.11; df=3/34; p=0.953				

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Research Question #3A:** What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and success (harvesting a doe or a buck)?

**Table 86.** Impact of harvest success (harvesting a doe or a buck) on overall satisfaction by hunter type for 2004 Black Hills deer hunters.

Hunter Type	Overall Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>				
	Unsuccessful	Harvest Doe	Harvest Buck	% Increase for a Doe	% Increase for a Buck
Nature	1.36 <sub>a</sub>	1.75 <sub>a</sub>	2.26 <sub>b</sub>	6.5%	15.0%
Social	1.27 <sub>a</sub>	1.92 <sub>b</sub>	2.16 <sub>b</sub>	10.8%	14.8%
Excitement	1.12 <sub>a</sub>	1.90 <sub>b</sub>	2.11 <sub>b</sub>	13.0%	16.5%
Meat	-0.69 <sub>a</sub>	1.57 <sub>b</sub>	2.11 <sub>b</sub>	37.7%	46.7%
Challenge	1.20 <sub>a</sub>	1.12 <sub>a</sub>	2.17 <sub>b</sub>	-1.3%	16.2%
Trophy	0.38 <sub>a</sub>	0.63 <sub>a b</sub> <sup>2</sup>	1.35 <sub>b</sub>	4.2% <sup>2</sup>	16.2%
Hunting	0.38 <sub>a</sub>	1.25 <sub>a b</sub> <sup>2</sup>	2.11 <sub>b</sub>	14.5% <sup>2</sup>	28.8%
Solitude	1.26 <sub>a</sub>	2.60 <sub>a b</sub> <sup>2</sup>	2.23 <sub>b</sub>	22.3% <sup>2</sup>	16.2%
Average	1.11 <sub>a</sub>	1.73 <sub>b</sub>	2.13 <sub>c</sub>	10.3%	17.0%

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 = Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>Insufficient sample size: (Trophy–N=8) (Hunting Opportunist–N=4) (Solitude–N=5)

Note: Means in the same row that do not share subscripts differ at  $p < 0.05$  in the Turkey HSD comparison (Student's t-test was used for solitude and trophy hunters).

**Table 87.** Percent satisfied<sup>1</sup> based on success (harvesting a doe or buck) for 2004 Black Hills deer hunters.

Hunter Type	Unsuccessful	Doe Harvested	Buck Harvested	p-value
Nature	75.4%	85.5%	94.3%	<0.001
Social	73.2%	87.7%	93.4%	<0.001
Excitement	67.7%	85.7%	92.2%	<0.001
Meat	23.1%	79.5%	89.4%	<0.001
Challenge	73.2%	70.6%	92.3%	=0.070
Trophy	59.5%	37.5% (3) <sup>2</sup>	75.9%	=0.003
Hunting	56.3%	50.0% (2) <sup>2</sup>	94.3%	<0.001
Solitude	68.4%	100% (5) <sup>2</sup>	96.2%	=0.049
Overall	69.5%	82.6%	92.1%	<0.001

<sup>1</sup>Combines “very,” “moderately” and “slightly” satisfied.

<sup>2</sup>Insufficient sample size – The N-value in the table is the number satisfied harvesting a doe.

**Research Question #3B:** What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested?

**Table 88.** Pearson correlation between satisfaction<sup>1</sup> with 2004 Black Hills deer season and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>
Number of points on whitetail buck harvested	0.096 <sup>2</sup>
Number of points on mule deer buck harvested	0.088 <sup>2</sup>
Number of points on buck (whitetail and mule deer combined) harvested	0.100 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 = Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>Significant:  $p$ -value=0.009 (2-tailed)

<sup>3</sup>Significant:  $p$ -value=0.167 (2-tailed)

<sup>4</sup>Significant:  $p$ -value=0.002 (2-tailed)

**Table 89.** Mean antler size (total number of points) analyzed by satisfaction level (2004).

<b>Satisfaction Level</b>	<b>Mean Number of Total Points on Buck Harvested (2003)</b>		
	<b>Whitetail</b>	<b>Mule Deer</b>	<b>combined</b>
<b>Satisfied</b>	8.1 (average)	5.9 (average)	7.5 (average)
<b>Slightly</b>	7.7	5.7	7.2
<b>Moderately</b>	7.8	5.8	7.3
<b>Very</b>	8.4	6.0	7.8
<b>Neutral</b>	7.7	5.4	6.9
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	8.0 (average)	5.3 (average)	7.2 (average)
<b>Slightly</b>	7.8	5.0	7.0
<b>Moderately</b>	9.2	5.0	8.0
<b>Very</b>	7.7	5.8	7.1
<b>One-Way ANOVA</b>			
Whitetail (full satisfaction scale): $F=3.21$ ; $df=6/722$ ; $p=0.004$			
Whitetail (comparing Satisfied with Dissatisfied): $F=0.44$ ; $df=1/726$ ; $p=0.645$			
Mule Deer (full satisfaction scale): $F=0.44$ ; $df=6/239$ ; $p=0.855$			
Mule Deer (comparing Satisfied with Dissatisfied): $F=0.75$ ; $df=1/243$ ; $p=0.474$			
combined (full satisfaction scale): $F=2.94$ ; $df=6/968$ ; $p=0.008$			
combined (comparing Satisfied with Dissatisfied): $F=1.71$ ; $df=1/972$ ; $p=0.181$			

**Table 90.** Pearson correlation between satisfaction<sup>1</sup> with 2004 Black Hills deer season and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested analyzed by hunter type.

Hunter Type	Pearson Correlation		
	Whitetail ( <i>p</i> -value)	Mule Deer ( <i>p</i> -value)	combined ( <i>p</i> -value)
Nature	0.018 (0.807)	0.067 (0.590)	-0.010 (0.874)
Social	0.141 (0.051)	0.139 (0.238)	0.144 (0.019)
Excitement	0.218 (0.006)	0.014 (0.930)	0.202 (0.004)
Meat	-0.102 (0.503)	0.310 (0.260)	-0.049 (0.710)
Challenge	-0.043 (0.772)	0.338 (0.184)	0.215 (0.087)
Trophy	0.343 (0.017)	-0.125 (0.814)	0.287 (0.035)
Hunting	0.114 (0.572)	0.577 (0.134)	0.322 (0.060)
Solitude	-0.174 (0.551)	0.202 (0.576)	0.257 (0.225)

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 = Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Shaded cells are significant at the  $\alpha=0.05$  level

**Research Question #4** What is the relationship between years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and various selected parameters measured in this survey (2004)?

**Table 91.** Number of deer seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2003).

Years of Experience	Number of Deer Seen	Evaluation of Number of Deer Seen
1	58.4	6.2
2-3	70.4	6.3
4-5	76.7	6.4
6-10	69.2	6.2
11-20	92.5	6.3
21-30	90.6	6.2
31+	86.6	6.1
Pearson Correlation	0.078 ( <i>p</i> =0.001)	-0.032 ( <i>p</i> =0.186)
ANOVA	F=3.95; df=6/1,764; <i>p</i> =0.001	F=0.59; df=6/1,747; <i>p</i> =0.743

**Table 92.** Number of bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2004).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Number of Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Evaluation of Number of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>1</b>	11.1	4.2
<b>2–3</b>	9.3	4.6
<b>4–5</b>	10.7	4.9
<b>6–10</b>	9.0	4.9
<b>11–20</b>	12.1	5.4
<b>21–30</b>	12.5	5.5
<b>31+</b>	12.2	5.4
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	0.048 ( $p=0.044$ )	0.158 ( $p<0.001$ )
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=1.49; df=6/1,776; $p=0.177$	F=12.82; df=6/1,737; $p<0.001$

**Table 93.** Number of quality bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks seen analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2004).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Number of Quality Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Evaluation of Quality of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>1</b>	2.6	4.3
<b>2–3</b>	2.9	4.7
<b>4–5</b>	3.0	4.7
<b>6–10</b>	3.2	4.6
<b>11–20</b>	3.3	5.2
<b>21–30</b>	4.0	5.2
<b>31+</b>	3.8	5.0
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	0.067 ( $p=0.005$ )	0.096 ( $p<0.001$ )
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=2.36; df=6/1,766; $p=0.028$	F=6.61; df=6/1,686; $p<0.001$

**Table 94.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by importance of Black Hills deer hunting to the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters.

<b>Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Most important recreational activity</b>	17.6	16.3 – 18.8
<b>Very important</b>	14.2	13.3 – 15.2
<b>Moderately important</b>	9.9	9.0 – 10.9
<b>Slightly important</b>	8.0	6.3 – 9.7
<b>Not Important</b>	6.2	2.8 – 9.7
<b>No Opinion</b>	7.4	1.5 – 13.4
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	0.247 <sup>1</sup> ( $p < 0.001$ )	
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=25.98; df=6/1,917; $p < 0.001$	

<sup>1</sup>Importance coded as: 0=Not Important / No Opinion, 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

**Table 95.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by harvest success of the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters.

<b>Harvest Success</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Success 1</b>		
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	13.5	12.5 – 14.5
<b>Harvested a doe or buck</b>	13.2	12.5 – 13.9
Success1 ANOVA: F=0.25; df=1/1,928; $p=0.621$		
<b>Success2</b>		
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	13.5	12.5 – 14.5
<b>Harvested a doe</b>	11.4	10.0 – 12.8
<b>Harvested a buck</b>	13.8	12.9 – 14.6
Success2 ANOVA: F=3.63; df=2 /1,927; $p=0.027$		

**Table 96.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' evaluation of crowding during the 2004 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding (scale score)</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Not enough hunters (1)</b>	17.4	14.8 – 20.0
<b>Just right – not crowded (2)</b>	13.4	12.6 – 14.1
<b>Slightly crowded (3)</b>	12.8	11.4 – 14.2
<b>Moderately crowded (4)</b>	11.2	8.9 – 13.6
<b>Very Crowded (5)</b>	12.7	8.4 – 17.0
ANOVA: F=3.69; df=4 /1,771; $p=0.005$		
Pearson Correlation: -0.067; N=1,776; $p=0.005$		

Years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunter type → see Table 66

**Table 97.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' satisfaction with the 2004 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	14.2	13.2 – 15.3
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	14.1	13.1 – 15.1
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	11.3	9.6 – 13.0
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	11.0	8.9 – 13.0
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	11.4	8.5 – 14.2
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	12.7	8.2 – 17.3
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	13.9	9.9 – 18.0
ANOVA: F=2.73; df=6 /1,777; $p=0.012$		
Pearson Correlation: 0.061; N=1,784; $p=0.010$		
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>		
<b>SATISFIED</b>	13.8	13.1 – 14.4
<b>NEUTRAL / NO OPINION</b>	11.0	8.9 – 13.0
<b>DISSATISFIED</b>	12.4	10.4 – 14.5
ANOVA: F=3.20; df=2 /1,781; $p=0.041$		

**Table 98.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' attitudes related to "harvest" (2004).

Attitude	Mean Years of Experience	95% Confidence Interval
<b>A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.</b>		
Strongly Agree	15.4	14.6 – 16.3
Slightly Agree	11.3	10.3 – 12.2
Neutral / No Opinion	10.9	8.8 – 12.9
Slightly Disagree	10.5	8.2 – 12.8
Strongly Disagree	11.3	7.4 – 15.3
ANOVA: F=13.56; df=4 /1,912; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation <sup>1</sup> : 0.135; N=1,917; $p<0.001$		
<b>Filling my Black Hills deer tag (killing a deer) is important to me.</b>		
Strongly Agree	10.2	8.9 – 11.5
Slightly Agree	13.0	12.0 – 13.9
Neutral / No Opinion	14.0	12.7 – 15.2
Slightly Disagree	14.7	13.2 – 16.2
Strongly Disagree	17.7	15.5 – 20.0
ANOVA: F=11.06; df=4 /1,911; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation <sup>1</sup> : -0.144; N=1,916; $p<0.001$		
<b>I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.</b>		
Strongly Agree	18.6	17.1 – 20.2
Slightly Agree	14.1	12.5 – 15.8
Neutral / No Opinion	12.6	11.2 – 14.0
Slightly Disagree	11.6	10.4 – 12.7
Strongly Disagree	11.5	10.5 – 12.4
ANOVA: F=21.84; df=4 /1,910; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation <sup>1</sup> : 0.191; N=1,915; $p<0.001$		
<b>I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.</b>		
Strongly Agree	17.3	15.8 – 18.7
Slightly Agree	13.6	12.5 – 14.7
Neutral / No Opinion	11.7	10.3 – 13.1
Slightly Disagree	10.9	9.8 – 12.1
Strongly Disagree	12.9	11.6 – 14.1
ANOVA: F=13.35; df=4 /1,913; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation <sup>1</sup> : 0.121; N=1,918; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree=2; Slightly Agree=1; Neutral/No Opinion=0; Slightly Disagree=-1; Strongly Dissagree=-2



**Table 99.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by importance of filling your tag – *How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (mean score) by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2004).*

Importance of filling your tag	Mean Years of Experience	95% Confidence Interval
Not Important	17.1	15.0 – 19.2
Slightly Important	15.4	14.2 – 16.6
Moderately Important	12.6	11.7 – 13.4
Very Important	10.7	9.4 – 12.0
No Opinion	10.0	6.1 – 13.8
ANOVA: F=12.02; df=4 /1,912; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation <sup>1</sup> : -0.141; N=1,917; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not important or No Opinion=0.

**Table 100.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip – *How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (mean score) by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2004).*

Importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip	Mean Years of Experience	95% Confidence Interval
Not Important	20.0	16.4 – 23.6
Slightly Important	13.6	11.9 – 15.3
Moderately Important	13.2	12.3 – 14.1
Very Important	13.1	12.3 – 14.0
No Opinion	11.2	5.7 – 16.8
ANOVA: F=3.82; df=4 /1,911; $p=0.004$		
Pearson Correlation <sup>1</sup> : -0.043; N=1,916; $p=0.060$		

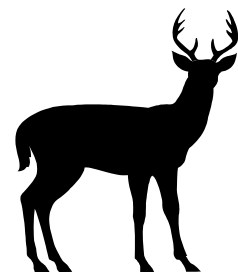
<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not important or No Opinion=0.

**Table 101.** Mean age of 2004 Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Mean Age (years)</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>1</b>	31.9	30.1 – 33.8
<b>2–3</b>	33.5	31.6 – 35.3
<b>4–5</b>	36.9	35.0 – 38.9
<b>6–10</b>	40.4	39.1 – 41.8
<b>11–20</b>	44.7	43.4 – 46.0
<b>21–30</b>	50.3	49.1 – 51.6
<b>31+</b>	60.7	59.4 – 62.0
ANOVA: $F=151.95$ ; $df=6 / 1,869$ ; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation: $0.584$ ; $N=1,894$ ; $p<0.001$		

**Table 102.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed sex (2004).

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Male</b>	14.0	13.3 – 14.6
<b>Female</b>	7.0	5.5 – 8.4
ANOVA: $F=38.89$ ; $df=1 / 1,893$ ; $p<0.001$		



**Research Question #5:** Developing a mountain lion attitude model – What are the important variables for understanding Black Hills deer hunters' attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota?

**Developing a Model of Attitudes towards Mountain Lions – Cluster Analysis**

A k-means cluster analysis (cases = 1,801) was conducted using the 12 mountain lion attitude questions (*Questions 21-a – 21-l*) (Appendix A) solving for 3, 4 and 5 cluster solutions. The variables were re-coded as 3=strongly agree, 2=moderately agree, 1=slightly agree, 4=neutral or no opinion, -1=slightly disagree, -2=moderately disagree, and -3=strongly disagree. The responses came from a random selection of 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters.

- For all three clusters (3, 4 and 5), the variables, "having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me" (Question 11-h) and the variable, "the presence of mountain lions in South Dakota increases my overall quality of life" (Question 11-c) had the highest overall discrimination among the cluster solutions. Therefore, naming the individual clusters are based on the concepts measured by these two variables, i.e., the importance of mountain lions to the individual.
- After some initial analyses (not provided in this report), it was determined that the 5-cluster solution was the best model for understanding resident Black Hills deer hunters' attitudes related to mountain lions.

**Table 103.** Cluster sizes and names for the 3, 4 and 5 cluster solutions analyzing resident Black Hills deer hunters' attitudes towards mountain lion in South Dakota.

<b>3 Cluster Solution (brief description)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Pro-lion</b> ( <i>favorable towards mountain lion in South Dakota</i> )	579	32.1%
<b>Neutral</b> ( <i>somewhat neutral about mountain lion in South Dakota</i> )	865	48.0%
<b>Contra-lion</b> ( <i>dislike mountain lion in South Dakota</i> )	357	19.8%
<b>Total</b>	1801	100%
<b>4 Cluster Solution (brief description)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b> ( <i>strongly favorable towards mountain lions</i> )	438	24.3%
<b>Slightly Pro-lion</b> ( <i>slightly favorable towards mountain lions</i> )	641	35.6%
<b>Slightly Contra-lion</b> ( <i>slightly dislike mountain lions</i> )	511	28.4%
<b>Strongly Contra-lion</b> ( <i>strongly dislike mountain lions</i> )	211	11.7%
<b>Total</b>	1801	100%
<b>5 Cluster Solution (brief description)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b> ( <i>strongly favorable towards mountain lions</i> )	357	19.8%
<b>Slightly Pro-lion</b> ( <i>slightly favorable towards mountain lions</i> )	432	24.0%
<b>Neutral</b> ( <i>neutral about mountain lion in South Dakota</i> )	312	17.3%
<b>Slightly Contra-lion</b> ( <i>slightly dislike mountain lions</i> )	480	26.7%
<b>Strongly Contra-lion</b> ( <i>strongly dislike mountain lions</i> )	220	12.2%
<b>Total</b>	1801	100%

Model	General Public (2002)		Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
3 Cluster Solution	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pro-lion	426	39.9%	579	32.1%
Neutral	473	44.3%	865	48.0%
Contra-lion	168	15.8%	357	19.8%
Total	1,067	100%	1801	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=19.61$ ; $df=2$ ; $p<0.001$				
4 Cluster Solution	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Pro-lion	283	26.5%	438	24.3%
Slightly Pro-lion	392	36.7%	641	35.6%
Slightly Contra-lion	277	26.0%	511	28.4%
Strongly Contra-lion	115	10.8%	211	11.7%
Total	1,067	100%	1801	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=3.48$ ; $df=3$ ; $p=0.324$				
5 Cluster Solution	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Pro-lion	242	22.7%	357	19.8%
Slightly Pro-lion	360	33.7%	432	24.0%
Neutral	120	11.3%	312	17.3%
Slightly Contra-lion	240	22.5%	480	26.7%
Strongly Contra-lion	105	9.8%	220	12.2%
Total	1,067	100%	1801	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=50.08$ ; $df=4$ ; $p<0.001$				

Model	Big Game Hunters (2002)		Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
5 Cluster Solution	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Pro-lion	91	24.3%	357	19.8%
Slightly Pro-lion	129	34.4%	432	24.0%
Neutral	36	9.6%	312	17.3%
Slightly Contra-lion	77	20.5%	480	26.7%
Strongly Contra-lion	42	11.2%	220	12.2%
Total	375	100%	1801	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=32.42$ ; df=4; $p<0.001$				

[illegible]

**Table 106.** Mountain lion attitude profile for the 2004 Black Hills resident deer hunters (mean attitude score for each variable<sup>1</sup>) for the 5-cluster solution (Pearson Correlation in parentheses) (all variables were significant @  $p < 0.001$ ).

<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b>	<b>Slightly Pro-lion</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Slightly Contra-lion</b>	<b>Strongly Contra-lion</b>
Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me (-0.786).				
<b>2.21</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-0.89</b>	<b>-2.47</b>
The presence of mountain lions in <u>South Dakota</u> increases my overall quality of life (-0.756).				
<b>1.92</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>-1.12</b>	<b>-2.53</b>
The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment (-0.732).				
<b>2.73</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>-1.50</b>
The presence of mountain lions <u>near my home</u> increases my overall quality of life (-0.690).				
<b>1.23</b>	<b>-0.36</b>	<b>-0.91</b>	<b>-1.70</b>	<b>-2.74</b>
Mountain lions help maintain deer populations in balance with their habitats (-0.685).				
<b>2.54</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>-1.59</b>
Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people (0.665).				
<b>-2.35</b>	<b>-0.99</b>	<b>-1.38</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>2.09</b>
By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions (-0.664).				
<b>2.68</b>	<b>1.84</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>-1.06</b>
Mountain lions should have the right to exist wherever they may occur (-0.660).				
<b>2.27</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>-0.75</b>	<b>-2.23</b>
I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals (0.465).				
<b>-1.89</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>-1.24</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>1.89</b>
Mountain lions are an unacceptable threat to livestock (0.409).				
<b>-1.26</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>-0.14</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>1.82</b>
Mountain lions do not compete with hunters for deer (-0.405).				
<b>1.46</b>	<b>-1.27</b>	<b>1.59</b>	<b>-0.95</b>	<b>-2.20</b>
People who live in mountain lion country should modify certain behaviors (e.g., hiking or jogging alone on trails, hunting alone, feeding deer) to decrease the chance of a negative interaction with a mountain lion (-0.298).				
<b>1.79</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.59</b>

<sup>1</sup>Variables were re-coded as 3=strongly agree, 2=moderately agree, 1=slightly agree, 4=neutral or no opinion, -1=slightly disagree, -2=moderately disagree, and -3=strongly disagree.

**Table 107.** General attitude toward mountain lions analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model (sample of 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters).

<b>Attitude towards Mountain Lions in South Dakota</b>	<b>Mountain Lion Attitude Model</b>				
	<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b>	<b>Slightly Pro-Lion</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Slightly Contra-Lion</b>	<b>Strongly Contra-Lion</b>
I enjoy having mountain lions AND I <u>do not</u> worry about problems they may cause.	69.4%	21.5%	27.3%	6.6%	0.0%
I enjoy having mountain lions BUT I <u>do</u> worry about problems they may cause.	25.0%	62.4%	50.5%	50.5%	17.4%
I <u>do not</u> enjoy having mountain lions AND I <u>do</u> worry about problems they may cause.	0.3%	1.6%	2.6%	24.4%	77.2%
I <u>do not</u> enjoy having mountain lions BUT I <u>do not</u> worry about problems they may cause.	0.3%	1.2%	0.6%	2.3%	3.7%
I have no particular feelings about mountain lions regardless of problems caused or not caused by them.	5.1%	13.3%	19.0%	16.1%	1.8%
Total	356	428	311	471	219
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1,210.84$ ; df=16; $p<0.001$					
<b>SUMMARY RESULTS</b>					
Enjoy mountain lions	94.4%	83.9%	77.8%	57.1%	17.4%
Do not enjoy mountain lions	0.6%	2.8%	3.2%	26.8%	80.8%
No opinion	5.1%	13.3%	19.0%	16.1%	1.8%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=837.94$ ; df=8; $p<0.001$					
Worry about problems caused by lions	25.3%	64.0%	53.1%	74.9%	94.5%
Do not worry about problems caused by lions	69.7%	22.7%	28.0%	8.9%	3.7%
No opinion	5.1%	13.3%	19.0%	16.1%	1.8%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=531.12$ ; df=8; $p<0.001$					

**Table 108.** Mountain lion interactions by the 2004 resident Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

<b>Mountain lion Interactions (percent having the lion interaction →)</b>	<b>Mountain Lion Attitude Model</b>				
	<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b>	<b>Slightly Pro-Lion</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Slightly Contra-Lion</b>	<b>Strongly Contra-Lion</b>
Observed lion tracks or signs <sup>1</sup>	61.1%	65.5%	54.8%	54.6%	66.2%
Observed a lion in the wild in SD while doing any non-hunting activities <sup>2</sup>	25.2%	24.3%	20.5%	20.0%	24.7%
Observed a lion while hunting in SD, NOT including the 2004 Black Hills deer season <sup>3</sup>	15.1%	13.9%	12.2%	13.3%	18.7%
Observed a lion while Black Hills deer hunting in 2004 <sup>4</sup>	5.0%	6.5%	7.7%	5.0%	8.7%
Combined (one or more interactions) <sup>5</sup>	66.4%	70.4%	61.9%	60.0%	71.2%
<sup>1</sup> Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=18.51$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.001$					
<sup>2</sup> Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=5.24$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.264$					
<sup>3</sup> Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=5.27$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.261$					
<sup>4</sup> Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=5.49$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.241$					
<sup>5</sup> Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=16.09$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.003$					

**Table 109.** Black Hills resident deer hunters' concern about safety related to mountain lion while deer hunting analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

<b>How concerned are you for your safety related to mountain lions while deer hunting in the Black Hills? (Scale)</b>	<b>Mountain Lion Attitude Model</b>				
	<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b>	<b>Slightly Pro-Lion</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Slightly Contra-Lion</b>	<b>Strongly Contra-Lion</b>
<b>Very Concerned (3)</b>	0.6%	1.4%	1.3%	4.2%	26.8%
<b>Moderately Concerned (2)</b>	3.6%	10.7%	6.4%	16.0%	27.3%
<b>Slightly Concerned (1)</b>	14.8%	33.4%	28.5%	37.5%	29.5%
<b>Not Concerned (0)</b>	80.4%	53.8%	63.8%	40.2%	15.0%
<b>No Opinion (missing)</b>	0.6%	0.7%	0.0%	2.1%	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	357	431	312	480	220
<b>Mean</b>	0.24	0.59	0.45	0.84	1.67
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.18 – 0.30	0.52 – 0.66	0.38 – 0.53	0.76 – 0.92	1.53 – 1.81
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=502.55$ ; $df=16$ ; $p<0.001$					
ANOVA: $F=132.51$ ; $df=4/1,777$ ; $p<0.001$					

**Table 110.** Black Hills resident deer hunters' opinions related to controlling mountain lion numbers to protect deer populations analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

GFP should take necessary steps to reduce the impact of mountain lions on game animals if such action would increase deer hunting opportunities. (scale)	Mountain Lion Attitude Model				
	Strongly Pro-lion	Slightly Pro-Lion	Neutral	Slightly Contra-Lion	Strongly Contra-Lion
<b>Strongly Agree (+3)</b>	3.6%	9.7%	2.9%	13.5%	60.5%
<b>Moderately Agree (+2)</b>	4.5%	17.4%	6.4%	18.3%	21.4%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	8.4%	25.9%	17.4%	28.1%	8.2%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	15.1%	27.3%	30.5%	30.0%	8.6%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	11.5%	10.2%	13.8%	5.6%	0.5%
<b>Moderately Disagree (-2)</b>	19.9%	5.6%	18.3%	3.3%	0.9%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-3)</b>	37.0%	3.9%	10.6%	1.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	357	432	311	480	220
<b>Mean</b>	-1.34	0.57	-0.43	0.90	2.30
<b>95% C.I.</b>	-1.52 – -1.16	0.43 – 0.71	-0.60 – -0.26	0.78 – 1.02	2.16 – 2.44
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1,023.00$ ; $df=24$ ; $p<0.001$					
ANOVA: $F=259.59$ ; $df=4/1,795$ ; $p<0.001$					
SUMMARY RESULTS					
<b>AGREE</b>	16.5%	53.0%	26.7%	60.0%	90.0%
<b>NEUTRAL/NO OPINION</b>	15.1%	27.3%	30.5%	30.0%	8.6%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	68.3%	19.7%	42.8%	10.0%	1.4%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=597.88$ ; $df=8$ ; $p<0.001$					



**Table 111.** Black Hills resident deer hunters' opinions related to having a mountain lion season if the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

I would support a mountain lion season if the state acquires data that the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest. (scale)	Mountain Lion Attitude Model				
	Strongly Pro-lion	Slightly Pro-Lion	Neutral	Slightly Contra-Lion	Strongly Contra-Lion
<b>Strongly Agree (+3)</b>	50.4%	57.1%	47.9%	52.2%	82.7%
<b>Moderately Agree (+2)</b>	18.2%	25.1%	22.8%	21.1%	9.1%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	12.6%	11.4%	12.9%	13.8%	0.5%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	4.8%	4.4%	9.0%	10.0%	4.5%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	3.1%	0.7%	2.3%	1.3%	0.0%
<b>Moderately Disagree (-2)</b>	2.5%	0.2%	1.6%	0.6%	0.0%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-3)</b>	8.4%	1.2%	3.5%	1.0%	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	357	431	311	479	220
<b>Mean</b>	1.67	2.28	1.86	2.07	2.57
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.47 – 1.86	2.18 – 2.38	1.69 – 2.03	1.96 – 2.18	2.41 – 2.73
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=169.12$ ; $df=24$ ; $p<0.001$					
ANOVA: $F=18.51$ ; $df=4/1,793$ ; $p<0.001$					
SUMMARY RESULTS					
<b>AGREE</b>	81.2%	93.5%	83.6%	87.1%	92.3%
<b>NEUTRAL/NO OPINION</b>	4.8%	4.4%	9.0%	10.0%	4.5%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	14.0%	2.1%	7.4%	2.9%	3.2%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=84.76$ ; $df=8$ ; $p<0.001$					

**Table 112.** Black Hills resident deer hunters' interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

If SD had a mountain lion season, how interested would you be to have an opportunity to hunt mountain lions? (scale)	Mountain Lion Attitude Model				
	Strongly Pro-lion	Slightly Pro-Lion	Neutral	Slightly Contra-Lion	Strongly Contra-Lion
<b>Not Interested (0)</b>	27.2%	17.2%	24.1%	21.8%	29.1%
<b>Slightly Interested (1)</b>	16.0%	15.8%	16.1%	17.4%	16.8%
<b>Moderately Interested (2)</b>	14.0%	18.3%	23.2%	21.3%	15.5%
<b>Very Interested (3)</b>	42.3%	46.9%	34.4%	36.4%	35.9%
<b>No Opinion (missing)</b>	0.6%	1.9%	2.3%	3.1%	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	357	431	311	478	220
<b>Mean</b>	1.72	1.97	1.69	1.75	1.60
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.59 – 1.85	1.86 – 2.08	1.56 – 1.83	1.64 – 1.86	1.43 – 1.77
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=41.56$ ; $df=16$ ; $p<0.001$					
ANOVA: $F=4.42$ ; $df=4/1,754$ ; $p=0.001$					

**Table 113-A.** Black Hills resident deer hunters' motivational model analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

<b>Black Hills Deer Hunter Motivational Model</b>	<b>Mountain Lion Attitude Model</b>				
	<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b>	<b>Slightly Pro-Lion</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Slightly Contra-Lion</b>	<b>Strongly Contra-Lion</b>
<b>Nature</b>	30.6%	30.0%	34.7%	24.2%	22.3%
<b>Social</b>	21.4%	26.2%	24.4%	34.3%	28.8%
<b>Excitement</b>	19.4%	16.9%	19.8%	19.9%	18.15
<b>Meat</b>	9.1%	7.5%	7.5%	6.0%	10.2%
<b>Challenge</b>	7.1%	7.0%	3.6%	7.7%	7.9%
<b>Trophy</b>	5.4%	5.4%	4.5%	3.2%	8.8%
<b>Hunting Opportunity</b>	2.3%	3.5%	3.6%	2.8%	1.4%
<b>Solitude</b>	4.6%	3.5%	1.9%	1.9%	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	350	427	308	467	215
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=56.17$ ; $df=28$ ; $p=0.001$					

**Table 113-B.** Mountain lion attitude model analyzed by the Black Hills resident deer hunters' motivational model.

<b>Mountain Lion Attitude Model</b>	<b>Black Hills Deer Hunter Motivational Model</b>							
	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Excitement</b>	<b>Meat</b>	<b>Challenge</b>	<b>Trophy</b>	<b>Hunting</b>	<b>Solitude</b>
<b>Strongly Pro-lion</b>	21.35	15.5%	20.4%	23.4%	21.0%	21.1%	16.0%	31.4%
<b>Slightly Pro-Lion</b>	25.4%	23.1%	21.6%	23.4%	25.2%	25.6%	30.0%	29.4%
<b>Neutral</b>	21.3%	15.5%	18.3%	16.8%	9.2%	15.6%	22.0%	11.8%
<b>Slightly Contra-Lion</b>	22.5%	33.1%	27.9%	20.4%	30.3%	16.7%	26.0%	17.6%
<b>Strongly Contra-Lion</b>	9.5%	12.8%	11.7%	16.1%	14.3%	21.1%	6.0%	9.8%
<b>Total</b>	503	484	333	137	119	90	50	51
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=56.17$ ; $df=28$ ; $p=0.001$								

**Table 114.** Gender (of resident Black Hills deer hunters) analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

Mountain Lion Attitude Model	Resident Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)			
	Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Pro-lion	322	19.6%	32	22.5%
Slightly Pro-lion	402	24.5%	29	20.4%
Neutral	282	17.2%	28	19.7%
Slightly Contra-lion	441	26.9%	30	21.1%
Strongly Contra-lion	195	11.9%	23	16.2%
Total	1,642	100%	142	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=5.57$ ; $df=4$ ; $p=0.234$				

**Table 115.** Mean age (of resident Black Hills deer hunters) analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

Mountain Lion Attitude Model	Resident Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Mean Age (years)	95% C.I.
Strongly Pro-lion	41.9	40.2 – 43.5
Slightly Pro-lion	41.2	39.7 – 42.6
Neutral	40.3	38.6 – 42.0
Slightly Contra-lion	42.3	40.9 – 43.7
Strongly Contra-lion	47.6	45.4 – 49.8
Average	42.2	41.5 – 43.0
ANOVA: $F=8.16$ ; $df=4/1,781$ ; $p<0.001$		

**Table 116.** Residence of resident Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by the mountain lion attitude model.

Mountain Lion Attitude Model	Resident Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)		
	Black Hills <sup>1</sup>	West River	East River
Strongly Pro-lion	23.6%	16.7%	14.5%
Slightly Pro-lion	26.1%	10.6%	23.7%
Neutral	17.4%	16.7%	16.8%
Slightly Contra-lion	22.0%	30.3%	32.3%
Strongly Contra-lion	10.9%	25.8%	12.7%
Total	950	66	566
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=47.74$ ; $df=8$ ; $p<0.001$			

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

**Research Question #6** Interest in a mountain lion season<sup>2</sup> – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lion in South Dakota?

Mountain lion attitude model analyzed by interest in a mountain lion season → see Table 112

**Table 117.** Interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota analyzed by hunter type (2004).

Hunter Type	Mean Interest <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Trophy</b>	2.26	2.05 – 2.47
<b>Hunting Opportunity</b>	1.86	1.54 – 2.18
<b>Challenge</b>	1.81	1.60 – 2.02
<b>Excitement</b>	1.77	1.65 – 1.90
<b>Social</b>	1.70	1.59 – 1.80
<b>Nature</b>	1.64	1.54 – 1.74
<b>Meat</b>	1.59	1.38 – 1.80
<b>Solitude</b>	1.47	1.11 – 1.83
<b>Average</b>	1.72	1.67 – 1.77
ANOVA: F=3.99; df=7/1,923; <i>p</i> <0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Interest Scale: 0=not interested; 1=slightly interested; 2=moderately interested; 3=very interested

**Table 118.** Gender of Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by interest in a mountain lion season.

Interest in a Mountain Lion Season (scale)	Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)			
	Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not Interested (0)	425	23.1%	56	37.8%
Slightly Interested (1)	318	17.3%	22	14.9%
Moderately Interested (2)	351	19.1%	17	11.5%
Very Interested (3)	709	38.6%	49	33.1%
No Opinion (missing)	36	2.0%	4	2.7%
Total	1,839	100%	148	100%
Mean	1.75		1.41	
95% C.I.	1.69 – 1.80		1.19 – 1.63	
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=18.46$ ; df=4; $p=0.001$				
ANOVA: F=10.24; df=1/1,945; $p=0.001$				

<sup>2</sup> If South Dakota had a mountain lion season, how interested would you be to have an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota?

**Table 119.** Mean age of Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by interest in a mountain lion season.

Interest in a Mountain Lion Season (scale)	Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Mean Age (years)	95% C.I.
Not Interested (0)	49.6	48.3 – 51.0
Slightly Interested (1)	43.4	41.7 – 45.0
Moderately Interested (2)	40.8	39.2 – 42.4
Very Interested (3)	38.2	37.2 – 39.2
Average	42.5	41.8 – 43.2
ANOVA: $F=59.34$ ; $df=3/1,943$ ; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation = -0.283; $p<0.001$		

Residence analyzed by interest in a mountain lion season → see Table 46

**Table 120.** Residence of resident Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by interest in a mountain lion season.

Interest in a Mountain Lion Season (scale)	Resident Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)		
	Black Hills <sup>1</sup>	West River	East River
Not Interested (0)	24.6%	13.2%	23.5%
Slightly Interested (1)	16.8%	17.6%	17.2%
Moderately Interested (2)	17.8%	23.5%	21.1%
Very Interested (3)	40.7%	45.6%	38.2%
Total	938	68	574
Mean	1.75	2.01	1.74
95% C.I.	1.66 – 1.82	1.75 – 2.28	1.64 – 1.84
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=7.34$ ; $df=6$ ; $p=0.290$			
ANOVA: $F=1.65$ ; $df=12/1,577$ ; $p=0.193$			

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

**Table 121.** General support for a mountain lion season analyzed by interest in a mountain lion season.

Interest in a Mountain Lion Season (scale)	Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Mean Support <sup>1,2</sup>	95% C.I.
Not Interested (0)	0.98	0.81 – 1.15
Slightly Interested (1)	1.95	1.83 – 2.08
Moderately Interested (2)	2.16	2.04 – 2.27
Very Interested (3)	2.74	2.69 – 2.79
Average	2.06	2.00 – 2.12
ANOVA: $F=194.63$ ; $df=3/1,957$ ; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation = 0.469; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Variable worded as: I would support a mountain lion season if the state acquires data that the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest.

<sup>2</sup>General Support Variable: 3=strongly agree, 2=moderately agree, 1=slightly agree, 4=neutral or no opinion, -1=slightly disagree, -2=moderately disagree, and -3=strongly disagree.



**Research Question #7**      General attitude towards a mountain lion season<sup>3</sup> – What are some variables that predict Black Hills deer hunters' general attitude towards a mountain lion season?

Mountain lion attitude model analyzed by general attitude towards a mountain lion season  
 → see **Table 111**

Interest in having an opportunity to hunt mountain lions analyzed by general attitude towards a mountain lion season → see **Table 121**

**Table 122.**      Gender of Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by general attitude towards a mountain lion season.

Gender	Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Attitude <sup>1</sup>	95% C.I.
<b>Male</b>	2.09	2.02 – 2.15
<b>Female</b>	1.59	1.31 – 1.87
<b>Average</b>	2.05	1.99 – 2.11
ANOVA: F=16.61; df=1/1,984; <i>p</i> <0.001		

<sup>2</sup>General Attitude Variable: 3=strongly agree, 2=moderately agree, 1=slightly agree, 4=neutral or no opinion, -1=slightly disagree, -2=moderately disagree, and -3=strongly disagree.

**Table 123.**      Mean age of Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by general attitude towards a mountain lion season.

General Attitude towards a Mountain Lion Season	Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Mean Age (years)	95% C.I.
<b>Strongly Agree (+3)</b>	41.6	40.8 – 42.5
<b>Moderately Agree (+2)</b>	42.6	41.0 – 44.1
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	43.6	41.5 – 45.7
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	42.9	40.3 – 45.5
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	47.1	41.2 – 53.0
<b>Moderately Disagree (-2)</b>	48.4	41.2 – 55.7
<b>Strongly Disagree (-3)</b>	46.4	42.0 – 50.8
<b>Average</b>	42.5	41.8 – 43.1
ANOVA: F=2.35; df=6/1,979; <i>p</i> =0.029		
Pearson Correlation = -0.077; <i>p</i> =0.001		

<sup>3</sup> I would support a mountain lion season if the state acquires data that the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest.

**Table 124.** Residence of Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by general attitude towards a mountain lion season.

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)</b>	
	<b>Attitude<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>South Dakota Residents</b>	2.06	1.99 – 2.12
<b>Nonresidents</b>	1.91	1.69 – 2.14
ANOVA: F=1.54; df=1/2,003; <i>p</i> =0.215		
<b>Black Hills</b>	2.08	1.99 – 2.18
<b>West River</b>	2.12	1.76 – 2.48
<b>East River</b>	1.98	1.86 – 2.09
ANOVA: F=1.04; df=2/1,614; <i>p</i> =0.353		

<sup>2</sup>General Attitude Variable: 3=strongly agree, 2=moderately agree, 1=slightly agree, 4=neutral or no opinion, -1=slightly disagree, -2=moderately disagree, and -3=strongly disagree.

**Table 125.** General attitude towards a mountain lion season analyzed by hunter type (2004).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Attitude<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Trophy</b>	2.40	2.18 – 2.61
<b>Challenge</b>	2.17	1.91 – 2.43
<b>Hunting</b>	2.15	1.78 – 2.52
<b>Excitement</b>	2.10	1.95 – 2.24
<b>Social</b>	2.04	1.92 – 2.16
<b>Nature</b>	2.00	1.88 – 2.12
<b>Meat</b>	1.94	1.69 – 2.19
<b>Solitude</b>	1.68	1.14 – 2.22
<b>Average</b>	2.05	1.99 – 2.11
ANOVA: F=1.87; df=7/1,961; <i>p</i> =0.071		

<sup>2</sup>General Attitude Variable: 3=strongly agree, 2=moderately agree, 1=slightly agree, 4=neutral or no opinion, -1=slightly disagree, -2=moderately disagree, and -3=strongly disagree.

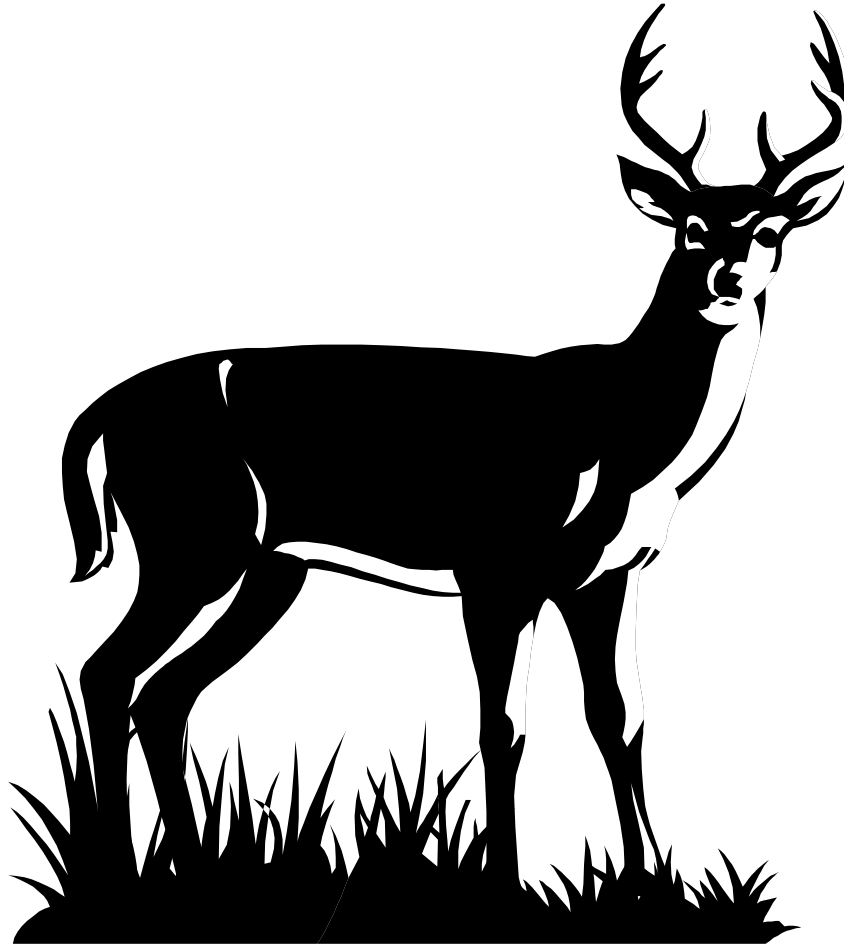


# **Appendix A**

## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

**Questionnaires and other mailings used in the survey.**

# 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey



November 2004

Dear Black Hills Rifle Deer Hunter,

Every year for the past nine seasons we have conducted a Black Hills rifle deer hunter survey to include hunters' opinions and evaluations of the deer season as part of the overall evaluation of the Black Hills deer herd. In addition we try to learn a little more about Black Hills deer hunters themselves. Each year we gain a better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters which will help us better manage the Black Hills deer herd. This year's survey includes some questions about mountain lions in the Black Hills. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you. *Larry M. Gigliotti*

## **Game, Fish & Parks**

**523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501**

### **DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

- Please try to answer what you believe to be true for you. The best answer is the one that most closely reflects your own feelings and beliefs, or what you actually did.
- Do not write your name on the questionnaire. Your answers will be treated confidentially. The questionnaire had an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls. Your name will never be associated with your responses.
- It is important that the person to whom this was addressed fill out the questionnaire, even if someone else in your family is a more active deer hunter.
- A summary of results will be sent to all participants in this survey, and a copy of the complete report will be available upon request.
- If you have any questions about the **survey** contact Larry Gigliotti @ 605-773-4231 (e-mail address: [Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us) ).
- Your response is important even if you did not hunt Black Hills deer this year, because some of the questions are opinions about Black Hills deer hunting issues.
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate please check this box ☐ and return your blank questionnaire.
- Please return your questionnaire using the postage-paid business reply envelope.

Your assistance in completing your survey is greatly appreciated! The information you provide helps in the evaluation of the Black Hills deer population and in understanding the needs and desires of Black Hills deer hunters. A space is provided at the end of this questionnaire for any special comments you may want to make.



**Please do not remove the cover from your questionnaire. The ID number on the front cover is used to indicate the license type and unit of your Black Hills deer license. The ID number is also used to let us know that you returned your**

## 2004 Black Hills Rifle Deer Hunter Survey

Note: This survey pertains only to **rifle** Black Hills deer hunting, please do not include any archery deer hunting information in your responses.

1. Number of days hunted \_\_\_\_\_. If you did not hunt this year write zero and skip ahead to question #11 (bottom of page 2).
2. Please indicate the result of your Black Hills deer hunt this year by checking (✓) the appropriate box below.
  - ∅ 1. I did not kill a deer.
  - ∅ 2. Whitetail Buck → number of points: \_\_\_\_ left **X** \_\_\_\_ right /or ∅ button buck
  - ∅ 3. Antlerless Whitetail (doe)
  - ∅ 4. Mule Deer Buck → number of points: \_\_\_\_ left **X** \_\_\_\_ right /or ∅ button buck
  - ∅ 5. Antlerless Mule Deer (doe)

3. Considering your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

4. About how many **DEER** did you see during your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunt?

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] **Total deer seen**

5. How would you rate the total number of **DEER** you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of deer. Leave blank if you have no opinion. *Please circle only one number.*

<b>VERY FEW</b>					<b>AVERAGE</b>				<b>LOTS OF DEER</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

6. About how many **BUCKS** did you see during your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunt?

[ ] **Total bucks seen**

7. How would you rate the total number of **BUCKS** you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of bucks. Leave blank if you have no opinion. *Please circle only one number.*

VERY FEW		AVERAGE					LOTS OF BUCKS	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

8. About how many **QUALITY BUCKS** did you see during your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunt?

[ ] **Total "QUALITY" bucks seen**

9. How would you rate the QUALITY of **BUCKS** you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very poor, 5 about average, and 9 being exceptional. Leave blank if you have no opinion. *Please circle only one number.*

VERY POOR		AVERAGE					EXCEPTIONAL	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

10. How would you rate the hunting conditions in terms of numbers of other hunters?  
*Please check ( \ ) only one response or leave blank if you have no opinion.*

- ∅ 1. **NOT ENOUGH HUNTERS**
- ∅ 2. **JUST RIGHT–NOT CROWDED**
- ∅ 3. **SLIGHTLY CROWDED**
- ∅ 4. **MODERATELY CROWDED**
- ∅ 5. **VERY CROWDED**

11. How important is **Black Hills deer** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of deer hunting or other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check ( \ ) only one response.*

- ∅ 1. MY MOST IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY
- ∅ 2. VERY IMPORTANT, BUT NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT
- ∅ 3. MODERATELY IMPORTANT
- ∅ 4. SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT

- ∂ 5. NOT IMPORTANT  
 ∂ 6. NO OPINION

12. How many years have you hunted deer in the Black Hills (including this year)?

\_\_\_\_\_ total years of Black Hills deer hunting

**Motivations for Black Hills Deer Hunting & Attitudes Related to Black Hills Rifle Deer Hunting and Harvest**

13. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt **deer in the Black Hills**. *Please rate by circling one number for each item on the scale from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).*

	NOT IMPORTANT				VERY IMPORTANT			
a) To bring meat home for food.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c) For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d) Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e) To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f) To spend time alone in the woods.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g) For the challenges associated with “outsmarting” a deer and dealing with the elements.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h) To have <u>additional</u> deer hunting opportunities.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

14. Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like **Black Hills deer hunting**?

a b c d e f g h



15. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season? **Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_\_ to me.** Please ( \ ) your response.

- ρ 1. **NOT IMPORTANT** – other aspects of the hunting trip and experience account for my level of satisfaction
- ρ 2. **SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT** – however, other aspects of the hunting trip and experience account for most of my satisfaction
- ρ 3. **MODERATELY IMPORTANT** – getting my deer accounts for about half of my satisfaction with the overall Black Hills deer season
- ρ 4. **VERY IMPORTANT** – getting my deer accounts for most of my satisfaction with the overall Black Hills deer season
- ρ 5. **NO OPINION**

16. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season? Please ( \ ) your response.

- ρ 1. **NOT IMPORTANT**
- ρ 2. **SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT**
- ρ 3. **MODERATELY IMPORTANT**
- ρ 4. **VERY IMPORTANT**
- ρ 5. **NO OPINION**

17. Here are some statements that deal with your feelings/preferences related to **Black Hills deer hunting**. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. *Please circle one number for each item.*

- |   | STRONGLY<br>AGREE | SLIGHTLY<br>AGREE | NEUTRAL/<br>NO OPINION | SLIGHTLY<br>DISAGREE | STRONGLY<br>DISAGREE |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| a) A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.....                         | 1                 | 2                 | 3                      | 4                    | 5                    |
| b) I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license..... | 1                 | 2                 | 3                      | 4                    | 5                    |
| c) Filling my Black Hills deer tag (killing a deer) is important to   |                   |                   |                        |                      |                      |

me..... 1 2 3 4 5

- d) I am only interested in hunting  
 for a “large” buck, i.e., I will  
 pass up legal bucks that do not  
 measure up to my standards...

1 2 3 4 5

## Mountain Lions in South Dakota



The mountain lion, *Puma concolor*, is also commonly called cougar, puma, or panther. Mountain lions live in the Black Hills and portions of western South Dakota and may even be found traveling through eastern South Dakota. Mountain lions are usually tawny to light-cinnamon in color with black-tipped ears and tail. Adult males weigh between 120 – 170 pounds and females weigh 80 – 110 pounds.

18. Before being selected to participate in this survey, did you know that mountain lions live in South Dakota?

∅ 1. NO

∅ 2. YES

### Mountain Lion Interactions:

19. Please indicate which, if any, of the following types of interactions with mountain lions you have experienced in South Dakota. Please answer each item by checking either no or yes.

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
a. Observed tracks or signs (e.g., buried deer carcass) of mountain lions (at any time in South Dakota)....	∅	∅
b. Observed a mountain lion in the wild in South Dakota while doing any non-hunting activities.....	∅	∅
c. Observed a mountain lion while hunting in South Dakota, <u>not</u> including the 2004 Black Hills deer season.....	∅	∅
d. Observed a mountain lion while Black Hills deer hunting this year (2004).....	∅	∅

### → Nonresident hunters can skip ahead to question #22 (top of page 7)

20. Many different feelings exist towards mountain lions. Generally, which one of the following statements best reflects how you feel about lions living in South Dakota? Please check ( \ ) only **ONE** of the following statements.

∅ 1. I enjoy having mountain lions AND I do not worry about problems they may cause.

∅ 2. I enjoy having mountain lions BUT I do worry about problems they may cause.



∅ 3. I do not enjoy having mountain lions AND I do worry about problems they may cause.

∅ 4. I do not enjoy having mountain lions BUT I do not worry about problems they may cause.

∅ 5. I have no particular feelings about mountain lions regardless of problems caused or not caused by them.

21. People in South Dakota have many different attitudes towards mountain lions. How strongly do **you** AGREE or DISAGREE with each of the following statements? *Please circle one number for each item.*

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	Moderately <u>Agree</u>	Slightly <u>Agree</u>	Neutral or <u>No Opinion</u>	Slightly <u>Disagree</u>	Moderately <u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>
a. The presence of mountain lions is a sign of a healthy environment.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b. Mountain lions help maintain deer populations in balance with their habitats... ..	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c. The presence of mountain lions <u>in South Dakota</u> increases my overall quality of life .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d. The presence of mountain lions <u>near my home</u> increases my overall quality of life .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e. Mountain lions <u>do not</u> compete with hunters for deer.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f. Mountain lions should have the right to exist wherever they may occur.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g. Mountain lions are an unacceptable threat to livestock.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h. Having a healthy, viable population of mountain lions in South Dakota is important to me...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i. I am concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals. ....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
j. Having mountain lions in South Dakota is too dangerous a risk to people...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
k. By following some simple precautions, people can safely live in areas occupied by mountain lions .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

1. People who live in mountain lion country should modify certain behaviors (e.g., hiking or jogging alone on trails, hunting alone, feeding deer) to decrease the chance of a negative interaction with a mountain lion.....

1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7

22. How concerned are you for your safety related to mountain lions while deer hunting in the Black Hills?

<u>Very</u> <u>Concerned</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Concerned</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Concerned</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Concerned</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Opinion</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

23. Game, Fish and Parks should take necessary steps to reduce the impact of mountain lions on game animals if such action would increase deer hunting opportunities.

<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Neutral or</u> <u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

24. I would support a mountain lion season if the state acquires data that the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest.

<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Neutral or</u> <u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

25. If South Dakota had a mountain lion season, how interested would you be to have an opportunity to hunt mountain lions in South Dakota?

- ρ 1. NOT INTERESTED**  
**ρ 2. SLIGHTLY INTERESTED**  
**ρ 3. MODERATELY INTERESTED**  
**ρ 4. VERY INTERESTED**  
**ρ 5. NO OPINION**

**Information About Yourself:**

26. Are you a South Dakota resident?

**ρ 1. NO.....**\_\_\_\_\_state

**ρ 2. YES.....**\_\_\_\_\_county

27. What is your age and gender? \_\_\_\_\_ years  
FEMALE

☐ MALE ☐

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.** We will send all participants a copy of the summary results when the report is completed.

You can use this page for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be typed (provided they are legible) and put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and made available to the public.



### Optional Comments:

Electronic comments can also be sent to [Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us)

Please put **Black Hills Deer Hunter Comments** in the subject line of your e-mail. Deadline for e-mail comments to be included in the final 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Report is February 1, 2005.

Extra space is available on the inside of the back cover if additional space is needed for your comments.

Note that this survey is **not** used to develop official state harvest estimates, which needs a much larger sample size and is a completely separate survey. If you receive a harvest survey card in the mail you must fill it out and return it or respond by the web-based response system regardless of whether or not you complete this survey

*To return your questionnaire, fold it in half and return it using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.*

**You may use this area if you  
need more space for your  
comments.**



**Additional Space for Optional Comments:**

## **Postcard Reminders, Letters and Nonresponse Questionnaire**

December 8, 2004

This postcard reminder is being sent to remind you to complete and return your Black Hills rifle deer hunter survey using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed to make accurate estimates of hunting pressure and harvest and to accurately represent the opinions of all Black Hills deer hunters.

If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

***Larry Gigliotti***  
Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

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January 11, 2005

This postcard reminder is being sent to remind you to complete and return your Black Hills rifle deer hunter survey using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed to make accurate estimates of hunting pressure and harvest and to also accurately represent the opinions of all Black Hills deer hunters.

We have a good track record of getting high return rates from our Black Hills deer hunter surveys. I need your help to continue providing a high quality hunter evaluation of the Black Hills deer hunting. There will

likely be one additional mailing of the questionnaire to hunters that have not yet responded by January 21, 2005.

**Larry Gigliotti**  
Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist



November 2004

Dear Black Hills deer

You have been randomly

**Department of Game, Fish and Parks**

Foss Building

523 East Capitol

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

ills

deer hunters. This year one-third of the Black Hills deer hunters were randomly selected to participate in this survey. Each year for the past nine years we have conducted a special survey of rifle Black Hills deer hunters, with a different focus each year. This information is valuable in providing a thorough understanding of the needs and desires of Black Hills deer hunters. Such information is important when considering management action or changes. Also, asking hunters about their hunt is one way to evaluate the Black Hills deer season. Please take some time to answer your questionnaire, as your response is needed to ensure that this survey is scientifically valid.

This survey is being mailed out before the end of the rifle Black Hills deer season. **Please wait until you have completely finished your rifle Black Hills deer hunting this season before completing and returning your questionnaire.** I will send a reminder post card on December 8, 2004 if I don't receive your questionnaire by that date. Thank you for your participation in this survey. A summary of the results will be sent to all participants in this survey, and a copy of the complete report will be available upon request.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **If you have a Black Hills deer license but did not hunt please write in a zero (0) for question #1, then skip ahead to question #11 (on the bottom of page 2) and continue with the survey.**

- **If you do not wish to participate in this survey please check (/) the box on the inside cover of the questionnaire (in the set of instructions) and return your blank questionnaire.**

Sincerely,  
Larry M. Gigliotti



Office of Secretary: 605/773-3387   Wildlife Division: 605/773-3381   Parks and Recreation Division: 605/773-3391   FAX: 605/773-6245  
TDD: 605/773-3485



December 21, 2004

Dear Black Hills deer hunter,

**Department of Game, Fish and Parks**

Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

You have been randomly selected to participate in this year's survey of Black Hills deer hunters. As of December 21<sup>st</sup> we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you mailed it in the past 5 days it is likely that it crossed this mailing and you can discard this follow-up request. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire I urge you to take the time to complete and return it, as your response is very valuable.

Each year for the past nine years we have conducted a special survey of Black Hills deer hunters, with a different focus each year. This information is valuable in providing a thorough understanding of the needs and desires of Black Hills deer hunters. Such information is important when considering management action or changes. Also, asking hunters about their hunt is one way to evaluate the Black Hills deer season. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire, as your response is needed to ensure that this survey is scientifically valid. Deadline for returning your questionnaire in time for your responses to be included in the final report is January 21, 2005.

I included another questionnaire with this mailing in case you did not receive the questionnaire in the earlier mailing or misplaced your questionnaire.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **If you have a Black Hills deer license but did not hunt please write in a zero (0) for question #1, then skip ahead to question #11 (on the bottom of page 2) and continue with the survey.**
- **If you do not wish to participate in this survey please check (/) the box on the inside cover of the questionnaire (in the set of instructions) and return your questionnaire.**

Sincerely,  
*Larry M. Gigliotti*



Office of Secretary: 605/773-3387   Wildlife Division: 605/773-3381   Parks and Recreation Division: 605/773-3391   FAX: 605/773-6245

TDD: 605/773-3485



January 24, 2005

Dear Black Hills deer

**Department of Game, Fish and Parks**

Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

The deadline for returning your 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey has been extended until February 10, 2004. As of January 24<sup>th</sup> we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you mailed it in the past 5 days it is likely that it crossed this mailing and you can discard this follow-up request. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire I urge you to take the time to complete and return it, as your response is very valuable.

Each year for the past nine years we have conducted a special survey of Black Hills deer hunters, with a different focus each year. This information is valuable in providing a thorough understanding of the needs and desires of Black Hills deer hunters. Such information is important when considering management action or changes. Also, asking



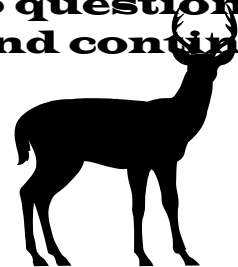
hunters about their hunt is one way to evaluate the Black Hills deer season. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire, as your response is needed to ensure that this survey is scientifically valid. Deadline for returning your questionnaire in time for your responses to be included in the final report is February 10, 2005. **While this survey is voluntary we would like you to return your blank questionnaire if you do not wish to participate.** → If you do not wish to participate in this survey please check (✓) the box on the inside cover of the questionnaire (in the set of instructions) and return your questionnaire.

I included another questionnaire with this mailing in case you did not receive the questionnaire in the earlier mailing or misplaced your questionnaire.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **If you have a Black Hills deer license but did not hunt please write in a zero (0) for question #1, then skip ahead to question #11 (on the bottom of page 2) and continue with the survey.**

Sincerely,  
Larry M. Gigliotti



Office of Secretary: 605/773-3387

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**Department of Game, Fish and Parks**

Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

TDD: 605/773-3485

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February 18, 2005



Dear Black Hills deer hunter:

**Please Help!** Each year for the past nine years we have conducted a special survey of Black Hills deer hunters, and each year we have about 15-20% of the randomly selected sample not return their questionnaire for various reasons. This very short survey (on the back of this letter) is designed to determine if there are important differences between the hunters that returned their questionnaire and those that did not return their questionnaire.

This survey should only take a couple of minutes to complete. It would be helpful if you left your mailing label on your returned questionnaire because your ID number is matched with the your Black Hills hunting unit and license type.

If you have any questions about this survey contact Larry Gigliotti @ 605-773-4231 (e-mail address: [Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us))

This survey is voluntary but we would very much appreciate your participation because the results from this survey will be used to help us improve and possibly streamline future surveys. We need your response by **March 10, 2005** to be useful in our report.

Sincerely,

**Larry M. Gigliotti**

**The questionnaire is on the back of this letter →**

Office of Secretary: 605/773-3387 Wildlife Division: 605/773-3381 Parks and Recreation Division: 605/773-3391 FAX: 605/773-6245

TDD: 605/773-3485

## **2004 Black Hills Rifle Deer Hunter Survey**



1. Number of days hunted \_\_\_\_\_. If you did not hunt this year write zero and skip ahead to question #4.
2. Please indicate the result of your Black Hills deer hunt this year by checking (✓) the appropriate box below.
  - ∅ 1. I did not kill a deer.
  - ∅ 2. Whitetail Buck → number of points: \_\_\_\_ left **X** \_\_\_\_ right /or ∅ button buck
  - ∅ 3. Antlerless Whitetail (doe)
  - ∅ 4. Mule Deer Buck → number of points: \_\_\_\_ left **X** \_\_\_\_ right /or ∅ button buck

∂ 5. Antlerless Mule Deer (doe)

3. Considering your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? *Please check ( \ ) only one response.*

<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

4. How important is **Black Hills deer** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of deer hunting or other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check ( \ ) only one response.*

- ∂ 1. MY MOST IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY  
 ∂ 2. VERY IMPORTANT, BUT NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT  
 ∂ 3. MODERATELY IMPORTANT  
 ∂ 4. SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT  
 ∂ 5. NOT IMPORTANT  
 ∂ 6. NO OPINION

5. How many years have you hunted deer in the Black Hills (including this year)?

\_\_\_\_\_ total years of Black Hills deer hunting

6. What is your age and gender? \_\_\_\_\_ years      ρ MALE      ρ FEMALE

*Please return your questionnaire using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.*

## **Appendix B**

### **Nonresponse Analysis for the 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

A total of 334 nonresponse questionnaires (Appendix A) were mailed to nonrespondents to the regular 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey on February 18, 2005 (one undeliverable = #1998). A total of 98 were returned (29.4%). This resulted in a total usable return rate of 90% for the entire survey.

#### **Results**

Response to the nonresponse survey (Appendix Table B-1) was similar to the proportion of resident-nonresident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters (92.7% / 7.3%). The proportion of males to females in the nonrespondent sample was similar to the respondents to the regular 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey (Appendix Table B-2). On average, respondents to the nonresponse survey were slightly younger and had slightly fewer years of experience hunting deer in the Black Hills (Appendix Tables B-3 and B-4). Respondents to both surveys had a similar rating of importance attributed to Black Hills deer hunting (Appendix Table B-5).

A slightly higher percent of respondents to the nonresponse survey did not hunt during the 2004 Black Hills deer season compared to respondents to the regular survey (15.5% vs. 7.1%) (Appendix Table B-6). However, the mean days hunted by both groups were statistically similar, with the respondents to the nonresponse survey having a slightly higher mean number of days of deer hunting.

Excluding the hunters that did not hunt, harvest rates were very similar for the two groups of deer hunters (Appendix Table B-7). However, if the non-hunters are included in the calculations of harvest rates, the respondents to the nonresponse survey had about a 7% lower harvest success rate (Appendix Table B-7). Rack sizes of harvested bucks were similar for the two groups (Appendix Table B-8).

Mean satisfaction of the two groups were statistically similar, with the respondents to the nonresponse survey being only 3.2% less satisfied (Appendix Table B-9). Overall, there were slightly fewer satisfied respondents to the nonresponse survey compared to the regular survey, although the percent dissatisfied were similar.

**Discussion**

Overall, the nonrespondents to the regular Black Hills deer hunter survey were very similar to the survey respondents on most of the variables measured. The only difference that may be of concern is the difference in overall harvest rate (due to the higher proportion of nonrespondents not hunting). However, with an 85% return rate to the regular Black Hills deer hunter survey, this difference would only result in over-estimating the total deer harvest by one percent. Based on the results of this nonresponse survey the conclusion is that nonresponse is not a significant bias in the Black Hills deer hunter survey.

**Appendix Table B-1.** Residence of the nonrespondent survey participants.

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>South Dakota Residents</b>	92	93.9%
<b>Nonresidents</b>	6	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	98	100%

**Appendix Table B-2.** Gender of nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Nonrespondent Sample</b>				<b>Regular Sample</b>	
	<b>Residents</b>	<b>Nonresidents</b>	<b>Combined</b>		<b>Combined</b>	
			<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Male</b>	87	6	93	94.9%	1,843	92.7%
<b>Female</b>	5	0	5	5.1%	150	7.5%
<b>Total</b>	92	6	98	100%	1,993	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.80$ ; $df=1$ ; $p=0.371$						

**Appendix Table B-3.** Mean age of nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters.

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Nonrespondent Sample</b>		<b>Regular Sample</b>	
	<b>Mean Age (years)</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Mean Age (years)</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>SD Residents</b>	36.0	33.3 – 38.7	42.2	41.4 – 42.9
<b>Nonresidents</b>	42.3	33.4 – 51.3	46.3	44.0 – 48.6
<b>Total</b>	36.4	33.9 – 39.0	42.8	41.8 – 43.2

**Appendix Table B-4.** Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience of nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters.

Residence	Nonrespondent Sample		Regular Sample	
	Mean Years Experience	95% C.I.	Mean Years Experience	95% C.I.
SD Residents	9.4	7.3 – 11.5	13.9	13.3 – 14.5
Nonresidents	5.5	2.3 – 8.7	9.1	7.5 – 10.6
Total	9.1	7.2 – 11.1	13.5	12.9 – 14.1

**Appendix Table B-5.** Importance of Black Hills deer hunting to nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters.

Importance	Nonrespondent Sample				Regular Sample	
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined		Combined	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most	21	3	24	24.7%	486	24.3%
Very	39	3	42	43.3%	823	41.2%
Moderately	20	0	20	20.6%	504	25.3%
Slightly	8	0	8	8.2%	131	6.6%
Not	2	0	2	2.1%	35	1.8%
No Opinion	1	0	1	1.0%	17	0.9%
Total	91	6	97	100%	1,996	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1.37$ ; $df=5$ ; $p=0.927$						

**Appendix Table B-6.** Percent not hunting and mean days hunting by the nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters.

Season	Nonrespondent Sample		Regular Sample	
	Percent Not Hunting		Percent Not Hunting	
30-Day Season	15.3%		5.7%	
10-Day Season	16.0%		11.3%	
Combined	15.5%		7.1%	
Season	Nonrespondent Sample		Regular Sample	
	Mean Days Hunting <sup>1</sup>	95% C.I.	Mean Days Hunting <sup>1</sup>	95% C.I.
30-Day Season	5.79	4.19 – 7.38	5.11	4.89 – 5.33
10-Day Season	3.00	1.97 – 4.03	2.64	2.47 – 2.81
Combined	5.07	3.84 – 6.30	4.64	4.34 – 4.70

<sup>1</sup>Does not include hunters that did not hunt.

**Appendix Table B-7.** Harvest success rates for the nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters.

Season	Harvest Rates Excluding Hunters that Did not Hunt			
	Nonrespondent Sample		Regular Sample	
	30-Day Season	10-Day Season	30-Day Season	10-Day Season
unsuccessful	37.1%	23.8%	34.9%	22.8%
Whitetail Buck	56.5%	9.5%	48.6%	11.7%
Mule Deer Buck	6.5%	4.8%	16.5%	2.9%
Whitetail Doe	N/A	57.1%	N/A	58.6%
Mule Deer Doe	N/A	4.8%	N/A	4.0%
Overall	62.9%	76.2%	65.1%	77.2%
Combined	66.3%		68.0%	
Season	Harvest Rates Including Hunters that Did not Hunt			
	Nonrespondent Sample		Regular Sample	
	30-Day Season	10-Day Season	30-Day Season	10-Day Season
unsuccessful	46.6%	36.0%	38.6%	31.4%
Whitetail Buck	47.9%	8.0%	45.9%	10.4%
Mule Deer Buck	5.5%	4.0%	15.5%	2.6%
Whitetail Doe	N/A	48.0%	N/A	52.1%
Mule Deer Doe	N/A	4.0%	N/A	3.5%
Overall	53.4%	64.0%	61.4%	68.6%
Combined	56.1%		63.2%	

**Appendix Table B-8.** Average rack size of bucks harvested by the nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters.

Season	Nonrespondent Sample		Regular Sample	
	Mean Number Points	95% C.I.	Mean Number Points	95% C.I.
<b>Whitetail Buck</b>	8.3	7.79 – 8.86	8.1	7.92 – 8.19
<b>Mule Deer Buck</b>	6.0	4.04 – 7.96	5.8	5.56 – 6.06

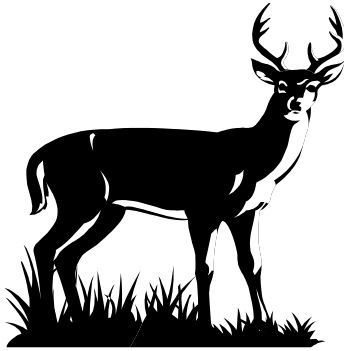
**Appendix Table B-9.** Satisfaction with the 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experience reported by the nonrespondent survey participants compared with the regular 2004 sample of Black Hills deer hunters—*Considering your total 2004 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you?*

SATISFACTION	2004 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING			
	Nonrespondent Sample		Regular Sample	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Satisfied	29	35.4%	679	36.3%
Moderately Satisfied	22	26.8%	665	35.5%
Slightly Satisfied	9	11.0%	219	11.7%
Neutral / No Opinion	14	17.1%	133	7.1%
Slightly Dissatisfied	4	4.9%	86	4.6%
Moderately Dissatisfied	3	3.7%	39	2.1%
Very Dissatisfied	1	1.2%	52	2.8%
NUMBER	82	100%	1,873	1,873
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=13.75$ ; df=6; $p=0.033$				
MEAN <sup>1</sup>	1.55		1.74	
95% C.I.	1.22 – 1.88		1.68 – 1.81	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
SATISFIED	60	73.2%	1,563	83.4%
NEUTRAL/No Opinion	14	17.1%	133	7.1%
DISSATISFIED	8	9.8%	177	9.5%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=11.40$ ; df=2; $p=0.003$				

<sup>1</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied







**Appendix C. Optional comments: 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey.**

**Note:** The ID number can be used to determine state-residence (SD vs. nonresident), unit and tag-type of for each comment by the chart at the end of these comments.

**ID: 1**

It would be important to have a mountain lion season. Maybe, extend the deer season and have more any-deer tags.

**ID: 5**

I don't believe mountain lions kill many healthy game animals. I won't hunt to get rid of sick and wounded game. I have seen an increase in deer kill along the roads by cars, which tells me there are too many deer. A lot of hunters get a tag every other year, which I don't agree with. In years past, you could buy a tag over-the-counter that was great. It didn't matter if you got a deer or not because you had a chance.

I've had tag soup a time or two, but I had a chance to score. I hear a lot of complaints for not getting a tag, you can bet if I don't get one, I will complain also. As far as better bucks, now and before the restriction of tags, I don't see a change. I have hunted over 30 years and have had chances to shoot good deer, if I end up tagless I won't have a chance.

Thanks for your time reading this. I have many friends who feel the same way.

**ID: 6**

I want to be able to feel "safe" from mountain lions when I'm in the Black Hills hunting with my hunting party during years when I don't draw a tag.

**ID: 8**

Mountain lions – as people move into "lion" country, where are they supposed to go? The amount of mountain lions in South Dakota is probably about the same as it has always been, but as people move into remote areas of the hills, of course there will be more reports.

Deer – where are they supposed to go, besides the interstate? If you don't want them to eat your flowers and shrubs in the spring, don't feed them in the winter.

**ID: 9**

I would like to see more applications in an envelope. Six people aren't enough to do a proper drive in the Black Hills. You can have twenty people in a hunting party, but only six applications per envelope. That doesn't really make sense, maybe increase it to ten applications per envelope. Thanks.

**ID: 10**

I hunted the first two days of the season and I seen maybe 10 to 12 bucks that were all small, 2 or 3 pointers, and maybe 2 good bucks. I seen a lot of does and fawns. I think the bigger bucks are around in the rut season, later in November, but I didn't see any. I think the buck season should be made for bigger bucks. Like for example; shoot only the ones with antlers outside the ears or so. It would be hard to do I know, but it would make for bigger bucks in time.

**ID: 11**

I think that a lion season would be both beneficial and harmonize with the present ecosystem.

I also think that more resident tags should be given for the Black Hills deer season.

**ID: 22**

I was disappointed in the number of bucks I saw; and while all were of good quality, all but one was rather small. I did see more than enough does, which I suppose is good. Although I am not well versed in wildlife management I would tend to think that seeing so many does with yearling fawns at their heels, can only mean that mountain lions are having little or no affect on deer population. Judging from the number of turkeys I saw, the same can be said.

**ID: 34**

I saw several bucks, but not any I wanted to take.

About mountain lions – I like seeing them, but have no desire to hunt them.

**ID: 39**

Although it may be disappointing when the Black Hills tag is not drawn, I definitely feel the quality and quantity of whitetail bucks has increased since the number of tags has been limited. I do however, wonder if the doe population should not be looked at more closely – maybe with consideration of issuing antlerless tags to control the population as well as get the doe to buck ratio more in line. This would not only increase "trophy" buck caliber, but also allow more hunters the opportunity to hunt.

**ID: 44**

Quite a few larger bucks; too many deer in urban areas.

**ID: 46**

On behalf of myself and many of my friends and family who hunt in the Black Hills, we are extremely satisfied with GF&P's Program in regards to the quality and quantity of bucks we are now seeing in the hills! Especially, compared to about 15 years ago! Thank you.

**ID: 57**

I took my buck in about 5 minutes on my first day of hunting. So much for the outdoors experience this year. I do hunt in cougar country, but it added to the thrill and the hunt. I would love to and get one of those animals!

**ID: 58**

I would like the opportunity to buy a license every year to keep tradition of family hunting together; I would buy a 4-point or better license.

**ID: 62**

I see more and more public grounds being cut off from hunters due to private ground. It would be nice if there were a few accesses to all public grounds.

**ID: 63**

I had a very pleasant hunt. We saw 21 bucks, which is much of an improvement. Still not many bigger than two points on each side though. We did not see many other hunters, seems like it could stand more licenses. Keep up the good work!

**ID: 73**

I feel that there are too many any deer tags issued. The season is too short for the number of hunters. I think the any deer season or doe season could run in December to increase the quality of the hunt for buck hunters. I also feel a reduction of any deer tags should be reduced and a few hundred more buck tags given out. I saw a lot of dead spikes during the any deer season.

**ID: 74**

I was very disappointed with all of the new housing developments that are popping up in places that were once very secluded.

**ID: 75**

Good hunt – seen 3 real good bucks, but over 250 yards and beyond my range.

**ID: 80**

In the last 5 years, I think the hunting has gotten better and the quality of bucks has also gotten better. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 83**

Turn buck tags into doe tags the last weekend of the seasons to reduce the doe population.

**ID: 85**

At first I didn't like the draw for Black Hills deer, but the last 2 years I've seen bucks that are very nice, like it was 20 years ago. Only negative thing I do not like is I think there are too many out-of-state hunters and most I've seen do not respect our Black Hills or use common hunting courtesy. They move into where you are for they figure if you are local or a resident you know where the deer are.

**ID: 89**

I think the way you are handling the number and types of licenses in the Black Hills has had a very positive impact on the deer herd. There is a good number of quality bucks in the herd. Keep up the good work!

**ID: 92**

I was 12 years old when I got my first deer tag and then did not get another one for 2 years. I think people that lived here for all their life should get preference over East River folks and non-residents. Because everybody cannot afford to go some place else to hunt.

**ID: 93**

My first sightings of mountain lions have occurred within the last 3 years, and I have been an outdoorsman for 32 years.

**ID: 94**

Refer to Question 4 on Page 1 – The number of deer seen was about a total of 100, going to and from the hunting area.

**ID: 97**

I have lived in western South Dakota for about five years, prior to that, in western North Dakota. I grew up hunting deer and enjoy being out in nature. I love the national forest that any licensed hunter can use it. Too many landowners have become too greedy and want to charge outrageous fees to hunt wild animals, and enjoy nature. The more public land or lands open to the responsible public the better. Thank you.

**ID: 102**

Hunted elk and deer in Unit 403 and saw mountain lion tracks everywhere we went. Sometimes two different sizes (mother and kitten). Seemed to be a healthy population.

**ID: 111**

My son & I had a very enjoyable hunting experience this year. We hunted around Deerfield Lake. I had never realized that area was such wonderful deer habitat. The Game, Fish & Parks Department should be commended for its progress on deer management in the Black Hills.

**ID: 114**

I have very little time to spare, but my buck was very disappointing.

**ID: 119**

I have never deer hunted in the southern Black Hills, and Larry I would like to know if you are an avid hunter.

**ID: 120**

Deer strikes on the highway are more of a threat to deer populations than mountain lions. I would like to see public announcements (radio and TV commercials) to inform the public on how to avoid deer strikes on the highways. Or sound devices or visual affects in certain areas to try to keep deer from eating along highway ditches. This is a serious problem. I drive truck and I see many wasted deer along the highways. Signs along the highway, with a phone number for deer strikes, that the deer may be picked up, for food for the shelters or such.

**ID: 128**

We need a new drawing system for deer licenses! We have 3 basic seasons, East River, West River, and Black Hills. A person should have to choose one of the 3 seasons in the first drawing, then move on from there. I know a lot of people who would only apply for their Black Hills tag on the first draw. A lot of people get really mad when they can't get a Black Hills tag – and they live in the Black Hills! The point restrictions have been a great

way to get more quality bucks in the Black Hills, but I'd still like my over-the-counter tags back!

**ID: 131**

I enjoy hunting in this state when I can. It can be difficult to find a good place to hunt with the private lands that are locked out. The Black Hills is my logical choice by location and time I have available. However, your "Lottery" system for tags makes it even harder to get an opportunity to enjoy this sport.

You asked how many years I have hunted; I said 3 because that's how many times I have been "chosen" to be able to participate in something I enjoy.

While I admit that I am not the "die hard have to hunt" person. It would be nice to enjoy this sport more than 30% of the years I have lived here. Maybe more tags should be available to sportsmen. If we took care of the deer during the season less deer would be a nuisance during off-season.

I.E. . . .Agriculture, roads and populace. Anyway that's my short opinion. At least I can enjoy my other outdoor sport of fishing, as long as I can buy that license over-the-counter.

**ID: 148**

The only hunting I do in South Dakota anymore is Black Hills bucks. I enjoy it more than anything else, especially now that I'm teaching my grandsons the fine arts of fair chase, quality buck selection etc. At my age, my biggest concern is maybe not being able to draw a license every year. I would like to see some kind of preference for people who only apply for one deer license each year.

**ID: 155**

I started hunting Black Hills deer the first year that the tags were given out by lottery. I have seen the quality get definitely better, as in a larger number of bigger bucks. I don't necessarily agree that the any-deer license holders should be able to shoot a buck that has less than 2 points. I believe that the quality would improve even more if there weren't any bucks shot, which had less than 2 points. The GF&P have done a real good job managing the Black Hills deer herd. Now they need to start working on the chasing and running down of deer with pickups by the East River hunters, especially the \_\_\_\_\_ family in Aurora County. This type of hunter has no respect for the deer and makes it very frustrating for those of us that hunt from stands. They are chasing the deer all over and on anybody's land that they think they can get away with. This is probably the one thing that the GF&P really need to get tough with and try to put and end to.

**ID: 157**

Even though we were not successful in our party this year, I feel more licenses should be issued. I don't believe the success rate would change. It's still a fun sport, but challenging. Thank you.

**ID: 161**

The buck I shot this year on Crook Mountain, south of Whitewood was a crossbred deer. Both whitetail and mulies range there.

**ID: 163**

I have been getting a Black Hills deer tag about every year since this lottery system started. I am very happy with that situation, since I have to say this new system is

working very well in my book. The quality of whitetail bucks has increased a lot! I'm willing to hunt every other year as long as the bucks keep getting bigger and better all the time. Keep up the good work!

The deer had a complete black tail, bigger ears than a whitetail, but not as large as a mule deer. The buck didn't flag when he ran, but didn't hop like a mule deer. White on the belly about one-third, then the dark mouse gray on rest of body.

The deer's rack was only 12 inches wide, but went straight up 14-1/2 inches with 5x7 points on the rack. Big heavy deer; the herd here is in great shape, but we have way too many of them, as I ranch only three miles from Crook Mountain.

I have ranched, worked for the U.S. Forest Service, and was a deputy sheriff in Lawrence County over the past 15 years. I saw my first cat in 1989, and had a horse attacked in my corral in 1990. I live in cat country!

My wife was a wildlife & fisheries biologist with the Forest Service for many years. We spend many hours horseback riding and packing in the Black Hills, and see cats and cat sign on almost every trip out. Also, bear sign in the high country.

I don't mind living with the cats, as they do help with the deer population, and here on the ranch I have way too many of them.

What I have seen is the cat losing its fear of humans and killing in Whitewood and surrounding towns. Cats have killed neighbors calves and colts.

The cats that we see are many, the population is many more than GF&P want the general public to know about. I've watched this population grow for the past 15 years. The old female we had here has raised her cubs every other year, but now she is gone. The cat that replaced her is different and has no fear of dogs or humans, or coming right into the ranch yard.

I would like to see a season on the cats to reduce the numbers and put some fear back into them.

Thanks for your time and listening to our comments!

**ID: 168**

I think that GF&P should be honest with the public on all issues. There seems to be several instances where there it seems that GF&P is hiding facts. Also, on applying for licenses, there are several second and third drawings when I get turned down.

**ID: 174**

I saw many deer; including a large number of bucks, but there were so many young bucks (mostly two and three points). It seems that the nice bucks we saw were protected by private land or were close to residential or public property.

**ID: 175**

As a South Dakota native, I deeply appreciate the comprehensive Game, Fish and Parks program, I understand considerable thought and effort went into the development of this survey and am certain the results will be helpful to future planning. Although family circumstances prevented me from deer hunting this year, I look forward to many years of

healthy hunting in the future because of the efforts of the Game, Fish and Parks Department and the dedication of South Dakota hunters.

**ID: 177**

I think you should open a season on mountain lions to help keep the mountain lions from getting brave enough to walk on peoples' porches, to keep the fear of man in them before there is an accident with a person or child. Open a season.

**ID: 181**

There are a lot of antlerless deer. I would support an increase in antlerless deer tags issued as supported by the deer population. I believe that more antlerless deer should be harvested.

**ID: 186**

I feel the Black Hills deer season has improved considerable. I have been hunting out-of-state with my father and have not hunted the Black Hills for seven years. This year was my first back. I was very impressed. It didn't feel crowded and there were plenty of deer where we hunted. I feel the "two-points or better rule" was a smart move. I even think it could be increased to 3-points or better.

**ID: 219**

It was a good deer season this year. I enjoyed myself very much.

**ID: 221**

We enjoyed our hunt again, as we seen many quality bucks. You are doing a good job in the Black Hills. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 222**

It would be nice to go back to the old way of getting a license in the Black Hills. Buying a license over-the-counter makes it a lot easier for people to hunt with their family and friends. Right now it's hard for everyone to get a license at the same time.

**ID: 224**

1. Greatly approve and appreciate the improvement of the Black Hills deer herd in the recent years.
2. I strongly believe that there should be a hunting season for mountain lions, to instill these animals with a healthy fear of humans.

**ID: 226**

I own a ranch in Custer County. I am concerned about your 2 deer license issue for 2003 and 2004 West River hunting. I believe that too many does have been killed in the past two seasons. I enjoy having deer on my property and I hope you have "BUCKS ONLY" for 2005. I would prefer 3 points or better required for all hunters for the Black Hills deer and West River hunting. Please pass this information on to the people making decisions. Thank you.

**ID: 227**

I have not hunted in the Black Hills for 6-7 years and I was very impressed with the quality of the bucks compared to the last time I hunted in the Black Hills.

**ID: 233**

There are too many cats. A person can be hunting an area one-day, and the next day the deer are gone. I know this may sound silly, but it happens down in the foothills of



Hermosa. So then the deer move in close to the houses for protection and the cats move in close too. Sometime in the future one of these cats is going to get someone. Right now they have no need to be afraid of humans. They are too protected

**ID: 238**

Regarding mountain lion season, I would hope that GF&P would approve such a season if the population of mountain lions increased to the point that a hunting season is necessary.

**ID: 241**

The only lion I have seen was in October 1939 in Boulder Canyon by the golf course in Lawrence County. I am always hiking in the Black Hills by Sturgis. I have often wondered how many times that the old female has seen me. Do not worry about her. Observed tracks in snow and mud, also with two cubs. Have come upon turkey and deer kills that are covered with leaves and sticks. Have pictures of tracks and covered "skat". Could tell many more stories if anyone would be interested. Thanks.

**ID: 246**

The last week of the buck deer season should turn into an any-deer season to allow a buck hunter to get a deer. The doe population may be getting a little damaging by over abundance.

The eastern slope of the Black Hills is getting over-populated. I worry about getting a glancing bullet hitting property, livestock or people; I will not shoot at anything going over a ridge or across a road. I see many road hunters on the back roads and would prefer to see them hunt property.

I was nearly shot while walking down the end of Beretta Road when I encountered two men using a barn for a backstop. There is getting to be too many fools leaving trash there. I appreciate having a place to set my gun scopes, but I can also see that it is getting out of hand. Can this problem be solved?

**ID: 247**

Hunted Nemo and Hill City/Custer areas. Did not see much hunter pressure, but did see fair amount of game. If willing to hike and search out spots, it appears the population is healthy, even with dry conditions. Best bucks seen were (2) 5x5 white-tailed deer, in separate spots distant from each other. Did not find any big mule deer bucks, but bagged a large, healthy fork-horn. Harvested the deer while hunting alone on a weekday. Enjoyable time and pleasant weather.

**ID: 249**

My son and I both had Black Hills tags. We also archery hunt, so I had a few bucks picked out that I had seen in archery season. They were ones that had not been in the area of our tree stands. I shot my buck on November 3rd; my son never got a shot at one. In the areas we hunted we did see good population of deer herds. Although, I believe some of the bigger older bucks are located in town (Spearfish).

**ID: 250**

Hunting has improved since license numbers have been limited. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 254**

For a long time I quit hunting the Black Hills because of the excess of hunters and scarcity of deer. The deer herd is now coming back and I am now passing up bucks that I wouldn't have let go 5 to 10 years ago.

I'm finding that I enjoy finding Walk-In Areas to hunt, while I can avoid the road hunters. I wish there were more areas where the roads are closed, even temporarily during hunting season where I could enjoy a good walk/hunt with my father.

I recently heard that many states (PA or NY?) that have an urban deer problem, and have set up archery hunting clubs. Where bow hunters go through a hunting course – much like an NRA/Bow Hunter Education course and must qualify, demonstrate their shooting skills and are allowed to harvest within specific areas within the city. They get a two-tag license and must fill the doe first and then the any deer. The Game Dept. sets up the areas and have feeding stations.

The club members pay all fees and costs and are self-supporting. It helps reduce urban deer numbers and doesn't cost the taxpayers. Perhaps this could work for Rapid City?

**ID: 260**

I did not spend as much time deer hunting in the Black Hills as I would have liked; due, mainly to having double tags for West River prairie deer. I didn't see as many bucks as I usually do, but it is most likely attributed to time spent in the field. Overall, I feel that the Black Hills deer season gets better and better. Great job!

**ID: 262**

Do not raise license fees. Do not over sell licenses to cause hunter over crowding.

**ID: 266**

I think that the proposed license fee increase should not be happening. I feel that residents already have to pay enough for licenses with the resident fees in adjoining states being what they are. The State of South Dakota should not have to increase license fees to survive. In the Black Hills, I think a 4-point or better season would work at this time. Not all of the buck tags, just a few in each unit. Maybe the season could be a short season similar to the any-deer season

**ID: 269**

Gregory County has cats.

**ID: 274**

I don't understand why the GF&P is issued 10 or so tags to kill mountain lions and SD residents are issued 0 tags. Mountain lions are a real problem right now, there definitely needs to be a season.

**ID: 279**

Saw too many road hunters on the trails in the mountains. A pickup went by with two people in the cab and two in the box, went over a hill about 100 yards and started shooting, and fifteen minutes later two doors slammed shut and drove off. Never saw the pickup again. It is people like that, that makes it tough for the rest of us.

**ID: 285**

The Black Hills deer season is getting better every year. Bigger bucks are being seen more often. What would happen to the overall condition of the herd if all doe tags were dropped? I would like to see 3 or 4 years of no mule deer hunting, especially on bucks.

I strongly believe there needs to be a lion season. Someone will eventually get killed. Thanks.

**ID: 288**

I have hunted deer in the Black Hills for almost 30 years. I strongly believe that the way you are handling the deer season in the Black Hills is working great. I saw 30 bucks in 4 days of hunting and 20 were branched antlered bucks. I wish I could get a license every year, but I am willing to wait out a year just to see that many bucks when I do get a license. Keep up the good management tactics.

I think you do have a lion problem in the Black Hills area. Give out a few tags each year, what will it hurt. Wait till someone gets attacked or killed, then you will hear from South Dakotans. Manage them.

**ID: 291**

I've seen more large bucks in the past 3 years than I ever have. Thanks for a great hunting season.

**ID: 292**

I enjoy not seeing very many hunters while hunting the Black Hills.

**ID: 294**

In response to #11, I said Black Hills deer hunting is my most important activity because I live in the Black Hills. Although, I received 4 West River deer tags this year and managed to fill all of them. I really enjoy the Black Hills buck season because it is a month long and provides me with lots of opportunities to hunt close to the house. I really enjoy hunting the prairie, but getting a Black Hills buck tag EVERY year is very important.

I really like the fact that there are mountain lions in the Black Hills. I live 10 miles outside Rapid City and have seen elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and bald eagles all within three or four miles of my home. That is a very important part of why I live in the Black Hills. I haven't seen mountain lions yet, but I see tracks often while I am bow hunting. I do worry about them somewhat while I am sneaking around the rock cliffs with my bow. I don't think they compete with hunters for deer because they stay mostly in the remote areas and most of the deer and hunters are near the roads. I would support a season on mountain lions because it's just a matter of time before something bad happens. The young mountain lions are being forced closer to people. However, I think the season should coincide with the Black Hills buck season. Let deer hunters have the opportunity to purchase the tag once they draw a deer tag. I don't want to see a separate season with hound hunting allowed. That will make it a specialized season where only a few people could hunt. I don't think very many deer hunters see mountain lions so they wouldn't kill very many. If I were deer hunting and crossed lion tracks, I would follow them if I had a tag. This would also target mountain lions close to human populations because that's where most people hunt.

**ID: 302**

I have taken all of my children (4) to the Black Hills deer hunting, We have always had a great time whether we filled our tags or not. The years we do not get tags are very disappointing to us as a family.

**ID: 303**

Put a point restriction on any deer tags since there is one on the buck only. Otherwise it doesn't seem to make sense. Give out more doe tags so we don't have so many vehicle accidents and road kills. Let bow and rifle hunters hunt together in the same vehicle.

**ID: 311**

1. Start a Black Hills muzzleloader buck season. Shorten the Black Hills buck season to 20 days and starting November 20th muzzleloader season would run for 20 days.
2. For 2 years – limit Black Hills deer season to 4 points or larger.

**ID: 313**

Deer hunting is getting better and the deer herd is getting stronger. The only concern is the number of people who are encroaching on the habitat of the deer and other wildlife. Deer are being pushed out of areas that used to be good areas for wildlife because of housing developments. If you look where most deer populations are, they are near or on areas you can't hunt on because of houses.

Also, there are areas that have been ruined by loggers. Some areas look like a tornado has gone through. Total deer populations moved out of the area. Loggers ruin the woods. There are some areas that look nice, but overall the trash and branches left on the ground after thinning is just a fire's dream. This is fuel, just waiting to go up in flames. This doesn't give the deer a place for food or safety.

**ID: 316**

We found a fawn carcass that was buried under pine needles and branches. I have hunted the Black Hills for years and would like to continue with my sons. I do believe we need to hunt a limited amount of mountain lions. It needs to be controlled and done professionally with dogs. Maybe five to ten tags for January? Who has dogs to guide? State Trapper? Seems that the young males are being driven out of the Black Hills to expand their range. Also our elk herd is doing so well what will the increase of mountain lions do to what I think is a great thing going? The increase sighting of mountain lions in town means they are looking for more food. Thanks.

**ID: 324**

Doe activity only in the mornings up to 9 a.m. Buck activity mainly between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. No activity was noted after 3:00 p.m. Some scrape line activity was found. Three of the five bucks seen were following estrus trails. Bucks were still holding tight to edge of dense timber. Weather ranged from low 20's to mid 60's with full sun. Does were browsing on buds of small shrubs. This buck was taken at 1:28 p.m. on November 13th while following an estrus trail. I'm guessing early or pre-rut status. Estimated field dressed weight of 180 to 200 lbs. Four of the five bucks seen, had nice racks and excellent body tone. Legal T5N, R3E - Forest Service Public Land.

Suggest a 5 to 10% increase on buck and doe tags for the Northern Black Hills. I'm convinced deer population is higher than should be. Not sure what to write for the buck/doe ratio. Your field studies should determine the ratio.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**ID: 330**

Very enjoyable hunt! Hats off to the Game, Fish and Parks for limiting licenses. This is the 1st time I went since over-the-counter sales of tags.

**ID: 332**

I would prefer more Walk-In Areas only, so I wouldn't have to compete with trucks and ATV's (road hunting).

**ID: 335**

I have been hunting the Black Hills for the past 15 to 20 years and this year was the best I have seen for quality bucks. For example, I shot my buck on Sunday, a respectable 4x4, and with my partner, we had only a doe tag to fill. So we did some scouting (mostly west and south of Custer), and we seen in a five to six hour period, approximately eight to ten bucks, and of them eight to ten bucks, five of them were 5x5's, which I haven't seen in the Black Hills for years. Seen lots of does also, may think about increasing doe licenses. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 339**

Does the presence of mountain lions in the Black Hills, increase or have an effect on the number of deer we are seeing in town, or at the edges of town? Because I see/saw more deer in town this year than in years past. Do the deer move out of areas that elk move into?

I thought I saw very few deer this year (in my hunting area) between Higgins Gulch road and Tinton road. (I hunted the area between big hill and the public hunting area east of Crow Peak. Would it be useful in your questionnaire to ask where we actually hunted?

Also, my style of hunting may not be advantages to seeing the deer that are actually in the hunting area. I usually hunt alone. So, the deer may have just moved out ahead of me, and I hunted with my children, which caused more noise and commotion.

**ID: 341**

Mountain lions provide an eminent risk to livestock and children in the Black Hills. We need to put the fear into them, though they belong here, we need to keep the numbers in check. Mountain lions in the Black Hills have no fear of humans or animals. I personally know several ranchers who had calves, cows, sheep and horses mauled or killed. They want action. I personally believe allowing a good number of mountain lions to be harvested each year will not only increase safety for humans, but livestock and deer will benefit.

On one hunting trip, driving down a forest service road by Sheridan Lake, I found seven different lion tracks. One was a female with two kittens, two were large males and the rest were juvenile mountain lions. I know this because I lion hunt in WY and can age a lion by the track size relatively well.

In Custer County, we are overrun with mountain lions. Pennington County is the same (where I saw the tracks). If we don't get a season soon, people are going to get hurt from our states' negligence in keeping the population in check. The threat posed by mountain lions is self-inflicted, (i.e., moving into their territories and offering easy targets for prey such as pets, livestock, and people), but regardless, something has to be done immediately. The Wild Mountain Lion Foundation would have you believe otherwise, but

let's be honest, it's only a matter of time before we are the next state on the news with lion killed casualties.

**ID: 350**

I would like to have split or offset seasons, so they don't run concurrent with county deer seasons. No one has time to do both in 3 weeks.

**ID: 352**

I can see by the wording of this survey that the state is biased to not hunt cats! I do not believe that having cats in my state is necessary or fulfills our ecosystem requirements! Does the state also want wolves and grizzly bears too! Cats should be hunted to the minimum number possible!

**ID: 353**

I do fear for young children around mountain lion areas.

**ID: 358**

I feel the Black Hills deer season should be conducted as an over-the-counter first come first serve not lottery drawing. I feel the 2 point buck rule is very successful. Over the past 2 years I've noticed an increase in the number of well developed mature bucks. I feel it is directly related to the 2-point rule.

**ID: 359**

I really like the idea about the 2-point or better, but I think you should put on a 4 point or better for at least a 2-year period. I think we could get some really nice bucks that way. I also think we should cut down on some more does. The doe population is getting a little large. And as far as the mountain lions go, they are not hurting anyone.

**ID: 365**

Mountain lions and wolves should be considered varmints and legally be shot on sight, at least by livestock owners.

**ID: 366**

SD GF&P are doing an excellent job. There are plenty of mature deer in the Black Hills now. Enough that you can pass on the smaller ones and have a realistic chance of seeing something a little bigger. You still have some heavily hunted areas, but nothing like it used to be. I don't think a change is necessary. The only other thing I'd like to see would be the data you get from the teeth sent in. Ages for each hunters' deer would be a hassle I assume; so I think a season in August would be okay, even if it's put on the GF&P web site. Thank you again.

**ID: 370**

No dogs to hunt mountain lions! People could purchase a lion tag during Black Hills deer season. When the number of mountain lions are killed, close the season. Hunting with a pack of dogs and GF&P collars would give hunting a black eye. That isn't hunting. I think it would turn non-hunters into **ANTI-HUNTERS**.

**ID: 371**

I would support deer habitat improvement projects in the Black Hills (private or federal lands) before reducing the mountain lion population solely to increase deer hunting opportunities. Mountain lion reduction should be a targeted program, control around population and high activity areas. Ranchers who graze the federal lands should bear the risk of livestock loss to the cats.

**ID: 374**

I had a very successful 2004 hunt. I think that the two point system has helped the quality of bucks in the Black Hills.

**ID: 376**

I wasn't a big fan of the "drawing" for tags, but even though I seem to only get a tag every other year, I think the GF&P is on to something. We're seeing more bucks and bigger bucks again. That's nice.

**ID: 379**

I would be very interested in a muzzleloader season, which included antlered deer in the Black Hills. Our neighboring, more populated state of Nebraska has a statewide any-deer muzzleloader season, which runs the month of December. I would like to see something similar in South Dakota or at least in the Black Hills area.

**ID: 384**

I think that the Game, Fish and Parks are doing a good job of managing the number of licenses in the Black Hills. I saw a number of good quality bucks. I think that the draw is a much better way of handling the license rather than buying them over-the-counter.

**ID: 386**

I like 2+ points for bucks, wouldn't mind if you made it 4 + or better, this includes prairie deer and Black Hills deer, to make quality bucks more available.

**ID: 389**

Very enjoyable hunt this year. Hope the opportunities to keep hunting continue. Overall, I feel the GF&P is taking the correct steps to increase the chances of taking a nice buck in the Black Hills. Your management plan seems effective.

**ID: 393**

I believe our deer numbers have significantly increased. We have also seen an increase in mountain lions during this time. I feel that they mountain lions should not become over abundant in our area. If there is a need to cut back their population, then there should be a season for them. I have not encountered one or have never thought of hunting one, but I do know that if the threat was there, I would defend myself.

**ID: 401**

A high percentage of Black Hills deer are leaving the hills before the season opens, moving down on private farms and into towns. It's disturbing just how many deer are killed crossing the roads, especially the interstate.

**ID: 403**

Question #3 – I hunted off of Deerfield Road during the burn and snow. Lots of deer tracks, but fewer deer, even after dark.

Question #2 – This buck could have been as large as 7x7 or more. He had 9 broken points on his rack, from fighting. The G-2 on the right side is broken off even with the main beam, the G-2 on the left is forked and broken. This was an older buck his teeth are very worn. Estimate his dressed weight was over 250 pounds. He's the heaviest buck I have ever seen. I saw 2 trophy whitetail bucks, the other was bigger than this one. I saw 2 spike mulie bucks, nothing legal. I was hunting for a "trophy" mule deer.

I am a disabled veteran and not able to walk very far. Therefore, most of my hunting is road hunting. I did leave my vehicle when I "thought" I saw a disturbance near some small pine and spruce trees. I jumped this buck from his bed. He had one doe with him.

**ID: 405**

I have a few comments. I had a GREAT time hunting in the Black Hills. This was my first time with a deer tag in the Black Hills, but I have hunted a couple times with my Dad and brother and friends. I hope to get a tag again, because I had a really great time in the Black Hills. I didn't want to come home, but I had to because I had to go to school.

I didn't see any mountain lion, but I am sure I saw some tracks in the snow. I have seen 2 mountain lions in my life. Once while walking across country to my neighbors to go fishing, when I was 9 or 10 years old. Another time I saw a lion chasing a deer out of a draw while I was deer hunting. I have seen a fair amount of lion tracks in the snow.

I would like to thank you for my deer tag you issued me and hope to get another one for the Black Hills again. It was a blast.

**ID: 413**

From the number of other hunters that I saw I believe that some consideration could be given to increasing the amount of licenses that are available to residents.

**ID: 418**

I feel the Black Hills deer hunting continues to improve with the limited number of licenses issued and the mild winters we have experienced in the past few years. I hope to see South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks continue with current numbers of licenses being issued and NOT increase tag numbers. If any change were to be made, I feel an increase in "doe" tags would improve the Black Hills deer population and quality of hunting.

**ID: 423**

I think all residents should receive a tag if they apply before any non-resident tags are sold.

**ID: 426**

I still like the old system of buying buck-only tags, you could drive to the Black Hills and pick up a permit and hunt buck only without having to go through the drawings.

**ID: 427**

My only complaint in the Black Hills and throughout the state is road hunting for big game is alive and well, and not a good thing.

**ID: 428**

Need to have a shorter time frame to apply for archery elk tags and issue more archery elk tags.

**ID: 433**

I have 210 acres 8 miles east of Sturgis on the Alkali Creek. I've been there for 10 years and yet to see a cat physically. Only tracks. They have not affected the number of deer that come through and live on my property. I would love to see one in the wild.



**ID: 434**

I think it's time for us to move to a 3 or 4 point season!

**ID: 436**

I always look forward to hunting deer in the Black Hills. This year plans were made, but my vacation time was closed for the month of November. I really missed being in the Black Hills!

**ID: 438**

Seems like we saw a lot of deer up high this year – probably due to warm temps down lower, but we probably saw more bucks than ever before. Could probably thin more out (doe too) if there are as many as we saw just road hunting.

**ID: 443**

We had people (hunters - MN mostly) shooting right outside our fence where we pasture our horses and right behind our house. Do we have to post a sign before it is illegal for them to shoot that close to place?

**ID: 449**

I work construction in Rapid City, and every year workers complain that they don't draw a license. Everyone complains when they don't draw a Black Hills, West River or East River deer license. A simple solution; one drawing on all licenses in SD, make a deadline and make hunters choose which area to hunt, it's either Black Hills, West River or East River. If there are any licenses leftover have a second drawing. A lot of hunters have friends or relatives that own ranches or property in East and West River. A lot of hunters don't, I think this makes drawing a tag more fair for everyone.

The only way to hunt mountain lions is with a guide and dogs. My brother helps a guide in Colorado. Hunting cats with dogs is very expensive, 3 to 4 thousand dollars is what they charge per hunt. A lot of people in SD can afford that, but most hunters like myself can not. There isn't an easy solution for this problem. All I know is too many cats isn't good. Too many mountain lions in the Black Hills, the deer and some elk will take a toll. Sooner or later someone hiking, jogging or hunting is going to get hurt or killed. It has happened in other states and as many cats that are here in the Black Hills, I believe its going to happen here. I hope no one ever does get hurt, because people and mountain lions can and should live together.

**ID: 450**

You should have a muzzleloader season in the Black Hills that would allow a person to take a buck to eliminate more deer.

**ID: 453**

I like seeing more bucks to hunt, but I also won't like to see more licenses given out.

**ID: 462**

As to your questions about mountain lions – I have seen them several times and have had very interesting contact with them. I feared for my calves in one pasture where I saw mountain lions several times. Once while clearing a trail I found one watching me! There after I carried a shotgun with me. I am not in fear of them, but without a weapon or my vehicle I would not like to face one. In the many years I lived and ranched here I have seen them grow in numbers and at the same time their territory has filled with homes, horses, dogs, etc.

While the deer population seems to have maintained, the deer are more and more in areas with houses and food (horses' hay). The cats are bound to follow the deer to these homes where the deer hang out. Deer are in my hay lot all the time, no problem. But I have found sign of the cats around my place as well. The Rails to Trails borders my place and I've found tracks of a lion in the sand on the trail. My wife won't check fence or cows without me or in her vehicle. That is a big change from years ago when we almost never saw a cat. ARE THEY A DANGER? I don't know, but the perception is that they are becoming a danger.

**ID: 466**

Because of work I didn't do any hunting this year. I have a cabin and was born and raised in the Black Hills. We see mountain lions and tracks frequently. I believe something needs to be done to control them. Not that they all need to be killed, but need to be controlled. Thanks.

**ID: 468**

Raise legal buck to shoot to 4 pointer. Let's get bigger bucks.

**ID: 469**

I am part (member) of a deer camp in the Black Hills. With the draw system in tact, which I believe has helped the bucks live a longer and more productive life, has given us less of a chance to hunt together. I would be interested in seeing a trophy buck license available to hunters with a 4-point restriction on one side. Good hunters can definitely tell the difference between a 3 or 4 point buck. I have only been hunting the Black Hills for only 4 years and cannot believe the increase in quality bucks, but in turn I am concerned about our hunting cabin going downhill because of the lack of use.

**ID: 472**

My hunting in the Black Hills is getting less important because I don't know if I'm going to receive a license or not. Need to let all residents to be able to receive them. Any deer tag should have same disclosure as buck only if visible antlers, has to have 2-points or better.

**ID: 475**

I'm sick and tired of people road hunting. They should get out of their vehicles and hunt the right way.

**ID: 479**

In my opinion South Dakota has not handled the lion population in the right ways. We need to hunt them. We are very lucky not to have had more problems than we have. Wyoming is helping to control South Dakota populations. The unit that borders South Dakota has a quota of 12 mountain lions. It was filled in basically one week of snow. That unit is the same as the Black Hills. I know this because I hunted in Wyoming. I am a houndsman and I pay attention to lion signs whenever I am in the woods. I hunt bobcats in South Dakota and any given snow I can find a lion track. All of the talk I hear is about the problem cats. The reason in my opinion is that the population is too large. The cats that are in the towns and subdivisions do not have a fear of man. Mountain lions deserve to be in South Dakota, but we have to manage the population. I have heard that if you do have a season, hounds will not be allowed. If this is the case it will not be an effective season. Hounds are not the only way to hunt mountain lions, but they are the most effective. I urge you to take a look at Montana's season, which has one quota and different seasons. That way you can give people without hounds time to hunt

or trap. I have a lot more to say and would be very interested in attending a GF&P meeting on the subject. Please feel free to contact me.

**ID: 483**

Although I've never seen a mountain lion in SD, my neighbor saw one adjacent to my property and there have been several sightings in this area over the past few years. SD doesn't need mountain lions to maintain a healthy deer population or anything else. Mountain lions need to be eliminated or at least their numbers contained or reduced. Eventually a lion is going to kill someone in SD and I don't want it to be one of my grand children.

The quality of bucks in this area (Custer) has improved since the 2-point restriction and application process was installed a few years ago. Deer numbers seem to be above average if you're close to a town. They are in residential areas or along the highway where hunting is limited, but (even with the mild winters of late) if you go 10 to 15 miles out away from the residential areas, the deer numbers seem to be below average.

Overall, I appreciate the privilege we have to hunt deer and thank the department for the opportunity to comment.

**ID: 486**

I firmly believe that the presence of mountain lions has impacted the deer hunting in the Black Hills.

**ID: 487**

The doe population in the Black Hills is dangerously high. When a person gets a Black Hills buck tag, make it an option to have a doe tag for an extra dollar amount. Hunters may or may not want a doe, but I think the people that do, will think out the doe population some. I had a great hunt this year!

**ID: 491**

You should have a mountain lion season in the next 2 or 3 years.

**ID: 493**

My comments on mountain lion hunting are that a season would be great for the people of South Dakota. Many people I talk to would like to have the chance to hunt for a lion, but don't think they could do it. I am a DOT employee and am not getting rich, but feel I could afford the tag if it would be \$250 to \$500. Everyone feels the same way, that price would not be out of bounds. Our concern is how to pay for the man with the dogs. My thoughts are to have a \$10.00 non refundable fee for the licenses and take \$5.00 of that money and put it into an account to pay for the man and dogs that the state has hired to help out with problem cats. We feel that if the state does not stay involved in this that it's going to be just a RICH MAN'S HUNT. I have heard that the state has had to put down some problem mountain lions in the past. They should put out a sign up list so that a lucky hunter could go along and harvest that trophy of a lifetime. Set that lion tag up as a regular tag and charge for that like one you would apply for, but if you got picked that would be your once in a lifetime tag. Put the names in a lottery and call the first name on the list and if he can't in 12 to 24 hours call the next name on the list. That way the state would get some money to help pay for the man with dogs and still give the harvested animal to someone to call a trophy. If you would like to give me any comments or thoughts on this please call me. Thank you for your time.

**ID: 495**

I think the GF&P needs to stop the road hunting.

**ID: 496**

The 2 point or better have helped the bucks. There is better or bigger bucks now. The biggest problem I see is getting those darn cattle out of the woods. It is grazed into the ground. Wherever there is grass you see more deer. They don't pay near enough for grazing cattle up there anyway. I'm disappointed you didn't have some questions about that subject.

**ID: 505**

Thank you for the opportunity to hunt and enjoy the Black Hills.

**ID: 507**

I think GF&P should raise the point restrictions to at least a four-point buck, instead of a two-point. Too many small bucks are taken and the bigger buck population is down or it seems that way. I only spotted two bucks that were mature. Also, mountain lions are a natural part of the Black Hills. People that don't like them should stay home! I would apply for a lion tag. That would be the ultimate challenge. Thanks for the good job you do!

South Dakota game management is the best. Many other states like Iowa are over populated and others are under populated. Mountain lions help manage game in South Dakota and have a right to live here. I had the opportunity to get within 30 yards of a lion this year during turkey season. The lion and I were doing the same thing. He was stalking the same bunch of turkeys I was. And the lion was a beautiful sight. Thanks.

**ID: 512**

There seemed to be a very high number of does!

**ID: 513**

It would be nice for more licenses in the Black Hills, especially if you live in the Black Hills.

**ID: 514**

I believe the doe and any buck harvest should be discontinued. We need more does – I've seen deer (does) partially eaten and covered by mountain lions. This is putting too much pressure on the Black Hills deer herd.

**ID: 515**

I would like the results of this survey mailed to me. Thank you, I enjoyed my Black Hills deer hunt very much.

**ID: 517**

South Dakota GF&P must open up the Black Hills to general deer hunting. Approve the usual type/species limits, allow over-the-counter sales and buy or rent land with game on it. The total deer population in the Black Hills is an unacceptable risk to drivers. The reason there are so many does is because there are no hunters. We are getting very tired of spending large amounts of time and money for nothing to walk. The problem of the deer population in the Black Hills and in the state will get worse and the amount of in state hunters will decrease due to the stupid regulations and interpretations by GF&P.

**ID: 518**

Before the deer season opened I saw many bucks (1 to 5 points). This season I did not have time to hunt very hard. I hike in the hills about twice a week. I believe GF&P is doing a very good job.

On hunting pheasant and geese:

When hunting pheasant and geese, I hunt alone, so road hunting is very important to me. I can't afford to pay to hunt on commercial properties. Thank you.

**ID: 521**

The mountain lion that I observed during the 2004 Black Hills season was near Nemo, SD. The mountain lion was stalking 4 whitetail does when I spotted it.

**ID: 522**

Additional work needs to be done concerning the out-of-control use of ATV's.

**ID: 526**

I thought the doe population was very high in the Black Hills. I would like to see my buck tag switch to a doe tag after regular season ends.

**ID: 527**

The mountain lion population in the Black Hills kills more deer in a year than hunters do in the month of November.

**ID: 528**

The way you give out licenses is not right. Some people get 4 or 5 tags and the next guy gets no tag. If there is enough to give someone 4 or 5 tags, someone else should not be denied to hunt. You should just get one tag until everyone that wants to hunt gets a tag. Please stop the road hunters. They ruin it every year for me. Road hunters are not hunters, they are murders.

Big cats do not belong in the Black Hills. It is too populated. I have them where I live, my horse was injured. I am afraid to let my pets out at night.

**ID: 531**

I think your limiting the number of licenses issued a few years back has helped make some bigger, older and better quality bucks. I think any residents applying for licenses should draw tags before any non-resident tags are issued.

**ID: 554**

The lack of snow and colder temperatures prevented a lot of movement by the larger bucks. I would have liked a longer season; on the other hand we really didn't get much snow until January.

If there is ever a mountain lion season, I don't feel that the price of the tag should not be so high that the average hunter can not afford one.

**ID: 555**

The deer population is good, a lot of nice 4x4 bucks this year as well as several smaller ones, they will be nice next year.

My feeling about mountain lions is they are a danger to our communities of people. Several of my personal friends have had encounters with them. My wife has seen one

behind our home. My children are no longer allowed to go behind our home to explore and hike in the Black Hills. This sort of holds them back from learning about our country and its habitat. When I was their age, the time I spent doing those things wasn't considered a threat to life from wild animals. Our forefathers diminished the animals for a reason.

**ID: 556**

I had good time hunting this year. I had lots of time and did not want to shoot a deer until the end. I had many chances to shoot one and as it turned out, at the end I didn't have that chance. I have never seen a mountain lion in the Black Hills, but I think it would be neat to see one.

**ID: 558**

I enjoy all aspects of the Black Hills, but I feel my hunting and recreational time would be seriously jeopardized by closing off 4-wheeler trails. Leave the trails open and perhaps build better access roads or patrol the existing trails for obnoxious riders. Please leave the existing trails open.

**ID: 560**

Larry:

The hunting that I do consists of walking between ½ and 2½ miles into "good" areas of deer populations. I have taken a number of trophy bucks over the years from the same locations. This year in the same areas, I only saw one buck over 4x4, but I saw approximately 25 spikes and 2-points, both muley and whitetails. It seemed the whitetail doe population was down also. Did not see many whitetail fawns, but saw a lot of muley fawns. I hunt in the Wildcat Draw area off U.S. Forest Service Road 284.

**ID: 565**

I would like to see it go back to the old way of buying a license over-the-counter. I thought the way it is now was to last for five years, then the GF&P would make a decision on which way is better for the hunters and the deer population.

**ID: 570**

I enjoy hunting the Black Hills than anywhere near where I live. One of the big reasons is that there is so much land for hunting.

**ID: 572**

I got my Black Hills buck on November 2nd, which was the first day I hunted. I'm glad I got the deer, however, I would have liked to spend more time deer hunting. I could have passed up the first buck I saw, but I didn't (thinking it might be the best one I would see). Regardless, I have more time to pheasant hunt and attend family activities. The pre-season scouting allowed me to see plenty of deer, except for any "monster" bucks. I always enjoy the Black Hills and look forward to next year.

I've had a friend tell me he was "shadowed" by a mountain lion until he realized he was being followed. The lion retreated quickly after it knew it was discovered. I think about how I'd react to a lion encounter . . . but I don't worry too much. As long as there are rare/no human "injury" interactions and livestock is not killed, we should let mountain lions be an integral part of the ecosystem. I'd support a hunting season if the lion population grew large enough. Thanks for your hard work.

**ID: 576**

I strongly agree with the concept of GF&P buying up parcels of land for public recreational use. (In my case hunting and fishing). The more, the better rather than have it fall to development. To save all we can even despite protests and high purchase costs. No one likes to shell out more for license fees, but yes, I will continue to purchase hunting licenses in order to have and keep the freedoms we have. FULL SPEED AHEAD! The 2-point or better seems to be a Good Law. Please keep it. The doe plan is also okay.

I do wish the deer feeding law could have more "teeth"/enforcement. I do realize you guys are spread awfully thin out there and I believe you're doing a GREAT JOB! I recently hit and killed a 2-point buck and trashed my truck bad (on the way home from deer hunting)! It was at Johnson Siding. Johnson Siding is notorious for feeding the pet deer. Thereby causing a large concentration of animals. Some of course drawn out of legal hunting areas to the feeding areas and causing traffic problems big time. Can we "nip" a few of these "feeder" folks as an example? Better on the deer, too.

**ID: 579**

Great increase in large bucks in the Black Hills. The best ones I saw this year were in my front yard. Great job on bringing back the nice bucks.

**ID: 582**

I saw two fork horn mule deer bucks. I shot one of them. One of my hunting partners shot a BIG 5x4 mule deer buck. A true "wall hanger". He has been "seriously" hunting for 17 years.

**ID: 586**

The Black Hills buck-only season should be a 2x2 minimum. There are too many 3x3 and 4x4 buck out there, but they need more time to grow. Or have a spike and/or up to 3x3 season to manage deer point levels.

I was not threatened, but mountain lions need to be managed. It should not take a child's life to start a season.

**ID: 587**

I have hunted in the Black Hills for about 10 years now. This year, 2004, I saw more shooter bucks (2-points or better) than I have ever seen before. I enjoy hunting in the Black Hills. What ever you're doing seems to be working. I now set my standards higher for Black Hills deer.

**ID: 594**

I enjoy the Black Hills deer hunting. I do both archery and rifle. My only concern is during archery season, we spend much time scouting the deer before season. Then set tree stands up after careful observation of my prey only to have all that effort wasted at the first rifle shot of the elk hunter. Is there anyway to get archery deer and rifle elk seasons separated? It would make archery deer much more enjoyable and I'm sure the elk hunters would also like it. Thanks.

**ID: 595**

I have never seen a mountain lion in South Dakota despite my spending a large amount of time in the Black Hills.

**ID: 596**

I think the GF&P is doing an exceptional job at managing the deer herd. One recommendation would be to issue doe tags or double tags because the number of does in the Black Hills is getting ridiculous

As far as mountain lions, something needs to be done. I have seen one before and I know quite a few people who had encounters with them. It is a dead giveaway that the Black Hills are over-populated when the mountain lions are getting pushed farther east.

**ID: 598**

The deer I saw were pretty much where you couldn't hunt.

**ID: 604**

Higher fines for four wheelers when not on designated roadways and not retrieving game.

**ID: 610**

Hunting in the Black Hills has always been very enjoyable. I have always seen plenty of wildlife and the Black Hills are beautiful.

**ID: 613**

I think the residents need to have a better chance at the deer drawings. Sure the non-residents spend money, but we do too!

**ID: 615**

I am very dissatisfied with the quota and drawing system for tags for deer hunting. I have only a few years left to spend with kids to teach them and spend time hunting with them before they are on their own. I grew up and spending time with my dad, brothers, and uncles hunting deer. Getting a tag every 3 years just doesn't seem right for a resident hunter. These are our state's deer; lets not offer non-residents our deer when there are residents who want to hunt.

**ID: 617**

S. D. needs to go back to over-the-counter deer tags. There are too many small bucks with bad blood that need to be harvested. I saw bigger and better bucks during the years of unlimited tags.

**ID: 619**

Keep us the good work! I am seeing more buck deer and I think you might give out more tags.

**ID: 623**

First, I would like to say I like the drawing method for the Black Hills season. Sometimes it's disappointing when you are unsuccessful at the drawing; but the quality of deer as well as the number has increased. KEEP IT UP!

Mountain lions: "We need a season to control them." Enough said.

**ID: 624**

Black Hills deer hunting since the change in the tags is absolutely awesome! Keep it like it is. Every hunter I know agrees with what is now, not then! Black Hills deer is getting better than prairie deer hunting. This is coming from someone who hunts on about 7,000 acres of private land owned by my in-laws.



As far as mountain lions are concerned, what I'm really worried about is someone's child is going to be attached around their own home. I do realize many people choose to live in or around a mountain lion's habitat, but what concerns me is when some cats are getting run over by cars, and some are being destroyed because they are in or around people's houses, and killing their pets. These last few cat encounters, they've said these cats were under weight. My answer to this is that cats cover about a 70 to 100 mile area, in which this is their territory. They chase other cats out, these are the problem cats that are getting themselves in trouble, and these cats are the one's 50 pounds under weight. These are also the cats that are going to drag some child off someday. This leads up to the fact that there must be too many cats around. I do not believe for one minute how many mountain lions they say are here! They need to be hunted. My in-laws have mountain lions in and around their ranch and never had a problem with them harming livestock! I feel this is because there is not an overabundance in this area.

**ID: 627**

I am concerned about the amount of houses being built in the Black Hills. I would like to see the U.S. Forest Service buy this land, to protect the hunter and non-hunters in the Black Hills. Thank you!

**ID: 629**

I was happy with the number of deer and legal bucks. The bucks that I have seen have gotten slightly bigger from 4 years ago.

I am not a fan of mountain lions. I do have some concern for them when I am hunting in the Black Hills.

**ID: 630**

I grew up in Meade County and hunted until I moved to Colorado in the mid 90's. When I moved the state still had unlimited licenses. The Black Hills were flushed with hunters. I rarely saw bucks of any size (mostly spikes). I moved back in 2002, but didn't get a license until this year. I have to say that the 2 point or better limit is great for the buck population. I saw more nice bucks this year than my whole life. I was very impressed and everyone I hunted with shot a nice to great buck. Thank you.

**ID: 635**

My husband and I always enjoy Black Hills deer hunting. We've both hunted elk in the Black Hills also. The Black Hills are beautiful and we look forward to our trips. If we harvest an animal, that's a bonus to us. While elk hunting in 2000, we saw a mountain lion southeast of Custer. What a gorgeous animal!

**ID: 636**

I think you have done a wonderful job in managing the deer population in the Black Hills. In the last 2 years I have noticed a big difference. Keep up the good work! Thanks for giving people the chance of hunting quality deer.

**ID: 640**

The 2-point or better has improved the quality of bucks. However, living in the Black Hills, we could see a need for reduction of more does.

**ID: 642**

Based on my 2004 experience, the two points or better rule, I saw more 2 point bucks taken than mature bucks. By increasing the point requirement would allow for bigger deer taken.

The basic problem we are having is getting a large enough party to hunt. About 1/3 to less than half are getting licenses the year because of the drawing basis. I will have to learn how to hunt in small one on one situation instead of a group of hunters. I saw more bull elk then buck deer.

The area did not appear over-grazed this year as in past years.

**ID: 643**

I feel mountain lions have been drastically reducing the number of deer, which leaves fewer bucks to grow to maturity. I only want to hunt for good quality, mature bucks and I am concerned about the impact mountain lions are having on this opportunity. We need to have a lion season to control them and to keep them afraid of man. Unlike California where mountain lions have no fear of man and consider them as dinner from time to time.

**ID: 647**

The number of tags could be increased.

**ID: 648**

I hunt mostly on private land.

**ID: 649**

I think there are too many does and not enough bucks, I think there should be more antlerless tags available for the Black Hills.

**ID: 652**

I am not as concerned about mountain lions in the wild (non-populated areas) as I am about them in town. We have seen them in town and our children domestic animals would be very easy prey for them.

I also have concerns about all the houses being built in the Black Hills; it is reducing our area to hunt in.

**ID: 654**

I like and agree with a 2 point or better for the Black Hills deer, but I think that it should also be an antlerless tag. That way a hunter can shoot either a buck or doe, but not both. I also believe that there should be at least a 2 point or better statewide. I appreciate being asked to take part in this survey. Thank you.

**ID: 660**

I think that what you have done with the Black Hills deer season is great. Thank you.

**ID: 662**

I believe that questions 20-25 concerning mountain lions would be better directed towards other Black Hills residents, such as live stock owners.

**ID: 663**

Black Hills deer hunting is a gift to my family members and me. Please continue to keep the SD resident hunter in mind when deciding the number of non-resident tags to distribute. It seems like it is getting tougher to draw a tag. I think you are doing a great job managing the herd. Keep up the hard work.

**ID: 664**

I have hunted for over 50 years in the Black Hills and every year it gets worse hunting few deer and more people living in areas I used to find good hunting in.

**ID: 665**

After hunting in these adjoining states, WY, MT and SD. I feel that SD should limit the tags on mule deer in the Black Hills. Mule deer with less than 4 points per side should not be harvested. There should be no mule deer doe harvested, until the mule deer population reaches a level that it was in the 1950's and 1960's.

**ID: 669**

This season would have been the first year hunting deer with a rifle, but some jerk poached my deer, along with three others up the road from me. I notified tips, but from the past couple of years living up Reno Gulch, I have noticed lots of dead bucks in the area. I just hope something can be done about it. Thanks.

**ID: 675**

I have read the negative publicity the GF&P has received lately concerning their relations with landowners. I appreciate both sides and hope a fair and equitable solution can be found. I very much appreciate the work the GF&P has done the past several years to greatly improve the hunting in the Black Hills.

**ID: 676**

Hunting in South Dakota is a wonderful opportunity for its residents because of the many different species we have in our state. However, I think we should charge more for our non-residents permits. I have hunted out of state for years and it cost more on average to hunt in other states than it cost non-residents to come here to hunt.

I think fishing should be closed during the spring to non-residents until the spawn is over.

**ID: 684**

For years the Black Hills deer season has been a family event that brings us together. However, with recent license numbers dropping our family members have not been getting licenses. For instance, my father has been Black Hills hunting since age 12, and last year was the first time he did not draw a license. Plus, many years ago there were more deer and more hunters; not just residents, but nonresidents too. Now you see very few nonresidents. These people were contributing to our economics as a state and the economics of towns like Custer. Why has this changed? This should be amended and we should try for the "old times" deer seasons.

**ID: 685**

In case the answers are read by computer, please note the mistakes I made on page 6 – questions g. & h. I am worried about mountain lions being a threat to human life and livestock! I have read of cases of humans being killed by mountain lions.

**ID: 686**

Good hunting, but population is still low; kill fewer does.

**ID: 688**

The 2-point or better buck licenses are great! I feel this has increased the quality of deer in the Black Hills. It would be nice to see a 3-point or a doe. Thanks for the great management of our wildlife quality in South Dakota.

**ID: 689**

I am a pilot and fly locating collared mountain lions, so I get more information than a lot of other people. There are several mountain lions in the Black Hills and I wouldn't want to see them become more numerous. Some are leaving the Black Hills because there are too many.

About 80% of the deer I saw were on private land that didn't allow hunting or charged for hunting. Some allow limited hunting, but not very many. With the landowners attitude toward hunting I would not be concerned about the damage deer do on their property. I got and harvested an elk. The Black Hills has as good elk hunting as any state. Overall, I was pleased and had a good hunting fall by harvesting one Black Hills deer, two West River prairie deer and an elk.

I hope the state doesn't take away the right of conservation officers having to check licenses on private property. Thank you.

**ID: 691**

Sir: Hunting, or drawing a tag used to be fun, but when part of your family doesn't draw-hunting isn't fun. You have to issue more group licenses for parties. It isn't the kill of the hunt – it's being out in the woods with your friends and family.

**ID: 695**

I feel, hearing from other hunters that there are a lot more mountain lions than what I've heard being said to be in South Dakota. A lot more hunters are seeing them, and some are saying that the mountain lion didn't run away, but watched them. Not so many years ago you very seldom heard of people seeing them.

**ID: 704**

Only had one chance for a shot at a good buck. I missed!

**ID: 714**

I support a limited-draw mountain lion season, for residents only. It should be conducted only by fair chase rules- no electronic collars for the dogs and primitive weapons only, muzzleloader or archery. Also, if possible, restrict the use of motorized vehicles. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

**ID: 715**

This year deer hunting in the Black Hills was phenomenal! We saw so many deer it was awesome. It was a great experience for me. Thank you.

**ID: 731**

I think it would be reasonable to offer three or four tags per year for mountain lions using a draw and preference system. Also, make hunting guides available to help the harvest percentage. These animals are becoming unafraid of people and need to be hunted so they will avoid people and towns. Treat it similar to the CSP elk hunting with orientation being mandatory for the tag holders.

I like the Black Hills deer season the way it is right now. Good Job!

**ID: 734**

I was very pleased with the amount of deer (bucks) I saw this season. Although, they were mostly small basket racks or smaller. I saw very few quality racks. Thank you.

**ID: 743**

The mountain lions are the only true predators in SD. They tend to hunt the weakest animals in a herd, as they are solitary hunters. I personally have had a mountain lion attack and slightly injure two horses. I think they surprised her more than she was hunting them. I enjoy the opportunities I've had to see mountain lions around my home and don't feel their presence is over populated enough to warrant hunting them EVER!

**ID: 749**

This new program is so nice compared to 10-12 years ago. There is not a hunter behind every tree, the deer population is a lot better and there are more and bigger bucks. Very peaceful. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 751**

Why is it people from eastern side of the state get deer licenses every year? I have only got a license every other year. I have other people that feel that way too.

**ID: 757**

I have never seen so many white-tail deer in the last six years. We saw about 1,000 deer in two days of hunting. Only three were mule deer. Thank you.

**ID: 760**

I would enjoy more miles of trails for off-road vehicles (ATV's). Use of ATV's to retrieve game.

**ID: 761**

There is too much private property within the National Forest. All private land sold should be bought by the government before the Black Hills is no longer a National Forest, but a big city.

**ID: 765**

I think it is a good plan to shoot 2 pt. Bucks or better and also to have a lottery drawing for tags in the Black Hills.

**ID: 766**

I feel that there are too many does and fawns; they need thinned down.

Lions are necessary for South Dakota for the balance of wildlife. I feel they should be monitored and population controlled. I feel the public has the right to protect their animals and family.

**ID: 767**

Is there a way to get more information about mountain lions in the Black Hills? Mountain lion precautions, such as what to do if encountered by a mountain lion.

**ID: 770**

Using dogs to chase a lion up a tree is not hunting! It's shooting a lion up in a tree!

**ID: 772**

I feel that the mountain lion has just as much right to be here as the deer or us. They are just as scared of us as we are of them. I feel that people are blowing this mountain lion thing way out of proportion.

**ID: 779**

I host women in the outdoors event in June and I'm interested in what the GF&P could offer (presentation, documentation, etc.) for my event. Thank you.

**ID: 784**

I feel South Dakota GF&P does a terrific job. You are in a tough spot with problems out west and the commercial hunting operations, Keep up the good work trying to get lands for public hunting. The average income guy needs you to continue to try to help us. I say income guy because it seems the only way you can enjoy quality hunting is to pay for it. I'll quit whining now. I've got faith in the South Dakota GF&P and I trust you.

**ID: 789**

I believe in order to create a more healthy deer population, we need to reduce the number of buck tags issued out and increase the number of doe tags given out.

Deer populations are too high and the number of bucks seen are very few – quality of herds would go up! More cover would be available to deer – healthier herds by more available food sources and less deer equals more food, more cover and better quality deer available!

I don't know how drastic your offices would take, but deer populations are out of control all over the Black Hills!

My belief is one year; issue no buck tags and have a doe only season to get a better handle on deer populations. Less drivers would hit deer. Less deer coming into towns to find cover and food sources.

It's very sad in the Black Hills that road kill is a form of deer management!

**ID: 792**

I love to hunt deer in the Black Hills. However, this year I could not make a 2 or 3 day trip to harvest a deer. Mountain lions should be looked at for creating a healthy deer/elk ratio. If a season on mountain lions needs to occur, I would place a 3 to 1 ratio on non-resident lottery.

**ID: 796**

The deer population, bucks for sure in Lawrence Co. have drastically increased from years in the 1980's. The management program should continue. I hate not getting a license when I want one, but am willing to go without if the overall general health of the herds keep improving. One deer a year! Only one deer a year! Leave the cats alone!

**ID: 802**

I saw a lot of bucks with two and three points. Not near as many larger bucks that I seen in 2003.

**ID: 805**

A person hasn't been attacked yet, but it will happen. Then something will change. It's too bad a human has to get hurt or killed first.

**ID: 806**

We hunt near Nemo during archery deer season in October. We averaged spotting six to eight bucks a day and 40-60 does. There is no shortage of bucks in the Black Hills. I

think the two point or bigger rule is the best thing you ever did. It gives the little bucks time to get smart and grow up.

There are enough cats in the Black Hills to have a season.

**ID: 813**

Would appreciate seeing more mature bucks.

**ID: 814**

There are not enough bucks and too many does. I have always wanted to hunt mountain lions.

**ID: 816**

Population of deer is very good in some parts of the Black Hills (does especially). I haven't hunted the Black Hills for 10 years or so, but I was impressed with the deer. They (mountain lions) may take care of some of the injured deer or other animals.

**ID: 819**

Why have deer populations decreased in the spring, summer, and fall months around the Moon area (20 mile radius), in the past 20 years? It was not uncommon to see 300 deer in one afternoon in the summer months. Now you might see 20.

Elk and lion populations are up, but they are up in other areas too. Jasper fire moved them out, but seems like the deer did not come back. Have we done anything to change things?

I have not rifle hunted for some years, and believe that not selling licenses over-the-counter has helped quality of hunt and deer herd.

**ID: 821**

Once again... I strongly disagree with the policy wherein non-resident cannot put their applications in with resident applications. Since the advent of this policy, hunting with friends and relatives from out-of-state has stopped. I miss the good times and companionship as used to occur. I believe that senior citizens that have hunted in the Black Hills for 20 or more years should be guaranteed a license every year. NOT free, however!

**ID: 822**

Need a license to take a doe along with a Black Hills buck-only tag. IE. Double tag.

**ID: 830**

I strongly believe that mountain lions should at least have a chance to live where they are. If it is absolutely necessary, then we should maybe try moving some of the closer, more dangerous mountain lions to a different area that wouldn't be affected. I also believe that hunting of mountain lions should be prohibited.

**ID: 833**

Lack of snow through the whole Black Hills, I feel that had an impact on seeing lots of bucks.

**ID: 834**

I enjoy my Black Hills deer hunting since I live in the Black Hills. I would like to get a tag every year so I can teach my son the right way to deer hunt. In the Black Hills, I feel

people living in an area should get some kind of preference when getting tags in their area. Thank you.

**ID: 843**

I hunt with a group of guys; the last few years not many of us have been able to draw a tag. I would like to be able to buy a buck-only tag over-the-counter even if it were a 3 point or better.

**ID: 844**

Every other year I get a tag and every opposite year my dad gets a tag. We have not hunted together yet. No fund and not safe. Need to increase lotto 5,000 to 10,000, maybe then we can hunt together.

**ID: 848**

Did, or didn't you, sell more licenses over-the-counter (for residents)?

**ID: 851**

Saw one mountain lion on Beaver Creek rd. and the other on Rifle Pit Rd. Slightly different colors on face.

**ID: 852**

Why in other states do they charge so much to hunt public land, but in South Dakota it seems they want to keep out-of-state hunter fees low and allow more licenses for them. Also in other states you have to hire a guide to hunt certain public land, but in our state they can hunt without restrictions. I think our state is missing out on money that also could be used to pay for Walk-In Areas.

**ID: 853**

I enjoy hunting in the Black Hills. My husband does too. He had hunted out there for 20 years straight until he didn't get a license. We used to consider it a mini vacation with our friends. Now we can't even go together on the same year since you can only send a certain number of licenses in together. That has pretty much taken the fun out of it for us. We like to see more deer out there, but we would also like to be able to go as a group like we used to do. It was more fun then.

**ID: 858**

I think the deer hunting in the Black Hills is far better now than it was 25 years ago when I started. The quality of the bucks is just better.

GF&P needs to admit we have more lions and sightings than they think. You need to admit the lions are getting closer into East River all the time. Nobody seems to want to admit it. Give us as hunters some credit, we're not all crazy, we know the difference between a cat track and a dog track. Thank you for the opportunity to vent.

**ID: 867**

Hunting licenses do not have to go up. The licenses are already high enough! There are a lot of mountain lions, and should have an all year season.

**ID: 878**

I believe you should be able to buy over-the-counter licenses. There are not enough hunters to keep the deer population healthy and moving around. I believe that's why we have so many dying of diseases. They congregate to close in one area. I also believe the economy would be better.



**ID: 879**

My biggest complaint concerning deer season is being a life long resident of the Black Hills and not being able to draw a tag every year.

**ID: 882**

Obviously, there are too many mountain lions in this state based on their behavior and migrations.

**ID: 887**

I feel that the deer numbers were down in the Black Hills this year, but the buck to doe ratio was better than in the past.

Mountain lion signs in the Black Hills are very high and they are moving onto the plains at an increasing numbers. My opinion is that it is past time to start a season on them. With increased sightings in towns it is only a matter of time before someone loses a child. This is not an acceptable option to me.

**ID: 889**

- Trophy hunting areas (optional unit)
- All areas 3-point requirement

**ID: 891**

I hunt with my hunting party every year whether I have a tag or not. I would like to be able to legally carry a pistol for self-protection when I'm in the timber without a tag or firearm.

**ID: 895**

One should be able to use scoped muzzleloader at any season and take bucks or does.

**ID: 902**

Put a 4-point per side minimum on Black Hills buck tags; that would be cool dude.

**ID: 903**

I am usually not the type of person to hunt for a trophy, but opening day of elk season I saw a monster 7x7 whitetail and couldn't wait for deer season. I have spent a lot of money on gas and a lot of time in the Black Hills to get him. Needless to say the 5 or 6 wall hangers I've passed up. Congratulations on the excellent job of deer management. I am sure next year will be a great year for monster Black Hills bucks.

**ID: 904**

I do not think we need these lions in South Dakota. If there are too many deer in the Black Hills, maybe the Game, Fish & Parks Department should allow more people to hunt; to control the deer numbers, as I know of several people who do not get a tag each year. I also feel the GF&P should issue more elk tags, as I saw more elk when we hunted deer than we saw deer. If they don't want to issue more bull tags, than at least more cow tags.

**ID: 912**

I have filled out Black Hills surveys in the past. I believe the system is working, especially in the area of quality bucks. Twenty years ago if you saw a horn you shot the deer. Today is much more enjoyable because you have a tendency to pass up younger bucks

in search of deer in the so-called "Trophy Class". Maybe some effort should be put into the East River season. Possibly a point minimum.

I farm about 10,000 acres, we have had a significant number of deer in the past. But with open weather growing popularity of archery and too high of a number of doe tags, our deer herd is depleted. Deer are bunched. Excessive season lengths cause relentless chase. GF&P job is to manage deer herds, not to print out tags to raise money. It is hunting not slaughter / chase the hell out of Disappointed Land Owners.

**ID: 919**

At first, we were disappointed in having to draw for licenses, and only getting one every other year, but now that we've seen larger bodied deer and more sizeable bucks, we think we're beginning to understand. It looks like it works!

**ID: 921**

"LOVE HUNTING", I appreciate the opportunity to hunt for meat, a good time with family, and enjoy seeing God's creations. I'm also thankful for being physically able to enjoy the outdoors.

My opinion is that the Black Hills tag should be either sex as most of the people I have talked to want to see more doe taken. So many people are hunting HORNS today and MEAT and QUALITY TIME comes in second. I want a wall hanger too, but Lord willing my deer will be broadside someday, a gift indeed.

**ID: 924**

I am totally against transferable or landowner sponsored big game licenses. The current controversy in northwest SD is a unique problem. Allotting additional licenses to large landowners is discriminatory. Most of these large landowners already charge per hunter to gain access to their land. If they view these allotted licenses as compensation for depredation, then any landowner should be awarded sponsored licenses. It is my opinion that the current controversy with the law enforcement open-field doctrine has the sponsored license as the underlying goal. Allotted licenses would be a step back in history. Only the rich would be able to hunt. SD would end up like feudal Europe. Large landowners have the opportunity to charge per hunter or enter the Walk-In Program and be paid in either option. Why the need for sponsored licenses? By instituting a pilot program, we are opening the door for further demands. Each year additional license allotments will be requested. Where will it end? As far as the open field doctrine is concerned, what are the large landowners hiding?

**ID: 927**

I have hunted deer in the Black Hills since 1947, with the exceptions of 1953 and 1954 when I was in the service, and when I didn't draw a license; and I've shot quite a few nice bucks. I can't understand a hunter shooting a 2 or 3-point buck when he has a doe license. I've never gone deer hunting when I didn't enjoy every minute. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 928**

Deer population is way low even from last year due to mountains. Need to have a season on them like coyotes. The mountain lions my son and I saw in the Rockerville area showed no real fear of man, just curiosity. Everybody has been seeing them, too many wiping out the deer population in certain areas. Only a matter of time before a bow hunter or a hiker will be attacked. I like having lions in the Black Hills, but they need to be controlled. When everyone is seeing them they are over populated.

**ID: 933**

I preferred the time when there was not a draw for licenses, but bought locally.

**ID: 935**

Black Hills deer hunting is by far the best type of hunting in SD. My opinion – I have so many memories already and am building more with my sons. I would like to start the tradition of a hunting camp and I am a little sadden because we may not draw tags every year for the Black Hills. I understand that the buck population is much better now and I am thankful for that and for the privilege of hunting in the Black Hills.

**ID: 936**

1. We need a hunting season on mountain lions in the Black Hills, and some control in the prairies.
2. Mountain lions kill too, or more than they need, because of the other predators and scavengers that steel their prey.
3. The Black Hills are in bad shape because:
  - a. There are too many pine trees;
  - b. The trees take most of all the water, and the birds, deer, elk need more water and open fields;
  - c. The old aspen groves need thinned and controlled burns. The old groves look nice, but the animals need the new shoots for winter; and
  - d. The other woody plants and bushes are so crowded they are or have gone dormant.
4. All animals are creatures of edges, not of all pine covered slopes.
5. Mountain lions need to be hunted to learn them to fear man, and to protect livestock (to some degree).
6. Because of the poor habitat, the deer and turkey population is way down from what they were from the 1960's, 1970's, & 1980's.
7. A healthy population of mountain lions can and do kill many animals; and with a strong population of coyotes and bobcats, the pressure is on the young deer, elk and turkeys.
8. With a hunting season, there will always be a population of mountain lions to roam the Black Hills.

**ID: 937**

On November 29th, I saw two different mountain lion tracks.

**ID: 938**

The mountain lion that we saw in the Black Hills while deer hunting this year was north of Pringle on Forest Service Road 332 1C. It was a female and she was on top of a big rock only 30 yards away from us. We were in our pickup and watched her watch us for 3 to 3 minutes. She just looked at us as if she was curious of who we were. After a while she just walked away and was not spooked. It was a neat thing to see. She had a big body and we knew she was a female because her bags were sagging a lot. She must have had kittens nearby , but we didn't see any with her.

**ID: 940**

I would like to see more things done to help out with the poaching situation. We have called the Tips line and have given several names and nothing was done. Help.

**ID: 941**

Thank you for sending this survey to people.

**ID: 950**

Let the buck tags turn into doe tags after the season, need some does shot in some areas.

**ID: 956**

The GF&P needs better relation with the farmers and ranchers because they all believe all you want to do is sell licenses and raise the price. We have way too many deer in my area and I couldn't even get a deer license as a landowner. Now you are talking about raising the price again, doubling the price of a fishing license for seniors. Every landowner should get a free deer license.

**ID: 957**

I really feel that the mountain lion population needs to be controlled near town. We live in the city limits and our neighbor across the road has had mountain lions in his yard and has observed cubs crossing under the road into our living area. I enjoy walking alone yet have not felt safe in doing this in the early morning/evening because of fear for my personal safety. I certainly could not prevail over an adult mountain lion. Also, the GF&P must believe and have confidence in a SD resident's ability to identify a mountain lion. We have heard from a friend who observed a mountain lion near her home that she was told it was a dog. Come on! We know the difference!

**ID: 961**

I think you guys are doing a great job of managing our deer herd. Black Hills hunting has been something to look forward to for over 50 years, and it is still just as exciting. Thanks again.

**ID: 965**

The conservation office out of Hill City told me that you should not shoot within a two-mile radius (approx.) around Deerfield Lake. I have never heard or read of such a rule.

**ID: 970**

We should probably look at issuing more doe licenses in the Black Hills. As I have traveled the Black Hills (both northern and southern) in season and out of season, there are too many does competing for the natural resources.

**ID: 972**

My herd has dropped in the last 2 years from 80 head to 10 because of mountain lions. I have had 2 kills 100 yards from my house and there are tracks in my creek.

**ID: 975**

Elk licenses should be granted after 10 years of applying. Just not right that people should wait more than 10 years to receive an elk license.

**ID: 977**

Black Hills deer hunting is a very good experience, better than over-the-counter tag system, good job!

Our biggest worry of the lions is the protection of our children. We live in the woods and they are outside much of the time. Would like a little more assurance there wasn't as many. We see lots of tracks! Thank you!

**ID: 984A**

It would be nice to draw a license every year just to be able to go hunting every year like the old days. It's not important to kill a deer every year, but just to go hunting.

**ID: 984B**

I am concerned about the high number of deer killed on roadways, and I think it would be acceptable to increase license numbers.

**ID: 986**

The quality of the Black Hills bucks is going up in the area that I hunt.

**ID: 989**

Quality of whitetail bucks has improved greatly after the two point per side change in the law. Something should be done to revive quality mule deer buck hunting. Maybe shut down mule deer bucks for a few years. Very few trophy size mule deer bucks left in southern Black Hills.

At this time I am strongly against a cougar hunt. I believe the population is grossly overstated.

**ID: 991**

Deer = Animal Medicine, Healing Spirit, and Mother Earth.

**ID: 992**

I spend a lot of time in the Black Hills. Although this year, I have seen many quality bucks this year and believe the system you're using works. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

**ID: 1001**

At this point with as many mountain lions, I will not go into the woods without a firearm even bow hunting, I will have my pistol along.

**ID: 1006**

I would suggest extending the season a couple more weeks or even to the end of the year. Possibly have a split season, November for some hunters and December for others. This would minimize crowding, eliminate the overlap of other seasons (West River deer and pheasant hunting) for those who choose the December season and would also extend the hunting season through the end of the year. As you know, winters in SD and what better way to enjoy them than be outdoors hunting.

I believe strongly that there should be a season on the mountain lion. It is inevitable that there will be an attack on a person sooner or later. It has now become almost a weekly event where someone I know has seen a cat recently, whether it be driving, jogging or hunting.

A season may instill fear of humans in the cats. I don't know for sure, but if GF&P does nothing prior to the inevitable attack, it will surely be blamed by the public for not acting in some way.

I don't know what the answer is to protecting people, it does not concern me that much. I am looking out for these cats in the woods and outside my house.

But GF&P should act on something, such as a hunting season. Better to do something wrong than do nothing at all!

**ID: 1009**

I enjoyed hunting in the Black Hills and hope to continue to enjoy the beautiful Black Hills for years to come.

**ID: 1011**

I hunted 9 days in the Black Hills and had one of the memorable times was a combination of factors that made the hunt so special. Friends and family at our camp was the primary reason for the positive experience. We saw a lot of deer this year and a lot of bucks. I saw the most bucks I think I have ever seen while Black Hills deer hunting. It is great to see the buck numbers and quality of them back in the Black Hills again.

I am extremely supportive of the current licensing system that is in place now. Although, I know chances of drawing a license every year are slim, it's nice to know that when I do draw, I will have the opportunity to see some quality bucks. I hope that the days of purchasing a license "over-the-counter" does not return!

**ID: 1013**

I see no reason for not having a season on mountain lions. Wyoming has had a quota season for years. With all the increased cases of sightings and confrontations it's only a matter of time before a child or person is killed. I farm and ranch in western South Dakota and it makes me very nervous to have my young kids outdoors knowing that lions are in the area. Therefore, I believe that not having a season is very irresponsible of the GF&P.

On another subject I'd like to comment on, the deer population in Haakon County is down considerably in the last two years, yet the number of tags has not reflected the decrease. I'm not sure how you get your population estimations, but I believe if the GF&P would ask a few farmers and ranchers in the area their opinions, it would be helpful. It seems to this landowner that the GF&P is managing budgets and not game!

**ID: 1015**

Any lion season should be available to all hunters, not only to those who can afford a luxury hunt. An example might be to place a \$5 to \$10 option on any Black Hills deer tag and cap or stop the season when a set number are harvested. I would not support a drawing for a limited number of tags, nor any form of auction.

**ID: 1021**

I highly recommend that GF&P pass a law that during elk and deer season hunters are not allowed to have loaded guns in vehicles, they would have to be either cased or broke down. Way too many bull and bucks are being wounded or killed from pickups and road rights-of-ways.

These gun bearers (can't be call them hunters) call a friend – let's go hunting – drive to the gas station, fill up then drive around all day until they see an animal – it – drag it to the pickup, then go home and talk about the great hunt or season they had. Is this the way it is supposed to be? Let's get these lazy bums out of the vehicle to load their guns, the deer may have a better chance. Hope this is given some serious consideration. Thank you.

**ID: 1022**

The quality of bucks seen this season was the best I have observed in all of the years I have hunted in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1029**

Mountain lions are a danger in a heavily populated area like the Black Hills. A hunting season would decrease the number of lions and increase their fear of man and keep them away from people. People should be able to shoot lions either near homes or when they are after domestic animals. There will still be lions, but they will stay away from people, kill less domestic animals and deer and be less of a threat.

**ID: 1033**

I agree with the limited number of buck tags, but I feel there are too many deer in certain areas of the Black Hills. Rather than offering more tags, I would like to see a proportion of the buck tags turned into double tags (doe and either any-deer or two point bucks). This would be most effective near populated areas (Rapid City and Spearfish).

**ID: 1035**

I own a place in the "Black Hills". We have way too many mountain lions in the Black Hills. Three times as many as we should have.

**ID: 1041**

You should have more of a selective drawing for deer hunting by apply in one area first.

Example:

Black Hills – Unit 1  
West River – Unit 2  
East River – Unit 3  
Archery – Unit 4

After the first unit drawings, open unfilled units to a second drawing. This would allow people a better chance to hunt the area they favor most.

**ID: 1043**

My dad went with me while hunting, and his opinion is that the point system on deer and limited draw tags is making a huge difference in the quality of the bucks in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1046**

There have been times in the past where my son would get a license and I wouldn't, or the other way around. I think that father & son hunting is very important. My entire family hunts the Black Hills. They to have had the same problems in past years. I hope there's something we can do to better the chances that resident hunters with other family members have better success! Thanks.

**ID: 1047**

I think the number and quality of bucks is on the rise in the Black Hills. I wish I had more time to hunt for a nice one. Thanks.

P.S. The Jasper Burn area is going to be very good hunting for the next few years!

**ID: 1051**

Black Hills deer hunting is very difficult due to the thick forest and dense trees. Although I did have fun while I hunted getting a good clean shot was almost impossible. If a hunter

has any ethics at all this makes it tough to take a not so good shot. I talked to other hunters that said just shoot at whatever part is sticking out from behind the tree. But for me that isn't how it works. Again I enjoyed hunting, it was just different then I am used to.

**ID: 1053**

Hunting with sons, son-in-laws and grandsons has been a big part of the hunt. Under this system we no longer can do that as a group. We get about half of our deer tags each year. At my age I would like to hunt with my whole family.

**ID: 1054**

It is unfortunate that the current draw system disrupted my family get-together/hunt. In the last 4/5 years we have had only 4 to 6 licenses out of a group of 12 to 15 people yearly.

**ID: 1056**

Why not give out more antlerless only permits?

**ID: 1057**

I saw a nice 6X5 whitetail buck Oct. 30th, Nov. 22nd, and Dec. 3rd. When I saw him on Nov. 22nd, he was chasing a doe and just blew through a clearing where I was hunting. Maybe he'll survive until next year. I live in the Black Hills above Piedmont. WE see deer in our yard every day.

**ID: 1060**

As you can see I live in the middle of the Black Hills. So I see more wildlife than a lot of people. Lot more deer and elk than the average hunter. My wife and I enjoy the sport of hunting and fishing very much.

P.S. Yes I am lucky my wife enjoys the things I do.

**ID: 1062**

You are faced with a delicate balance of the public vs. hunting a "pretty animal". One could make a case...likely to harvest mountain lions, "but which ones and when?" The concern I have is juveniles which become displaced or injured and now look for "easier" game, i.e., pets, etc. This is a natural process and one, which creates concern and possible threat. Good luck.

You need to harvest more does/fawns, a hard winter will take care of that.

**ID: 1065**

Black Hills deer hunting is a great opportunity to spend good quality time with friends and family. I do believe the quality of the bucks has greatly increased with the introduction of the 2+-point law for harvest.

I believe there is room for a mountain lion population to exist and help manage the deer population. However, I also believe there is enough mountain lions to support a season. Based on my sightings while in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1070**

The Black Hills have entirely too many roads. Every year there is increased evidence of damage from RV's. Cattle grazing is also evident given the prolonged drought conditions in the area.



**ID: 1073**

I enjoy going out to the Black Hills to hunt deer and just being out in the woods; I'm never bothered by anyone. I have been sending for tags the last 15 years. I couldn't make it out this year, keep up the great work and thanks for giving me the opportunity to hunt in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1083**

This is a great hunting state and you folks are doing a good job!

**ID: 1085**

Seen a lot of hunters this season. Next season I hope not to see that many.

**ID: 1087**

I do think there are a lot of smaller bucks in the Black Hills. I think that maybe a larger antler size may not be a bad idea. Two years olds seem to be the normal size buck in the Black Hills, but definitely not disappointed.

**ID: 1091**

If I didn't draw a deer tag in the drawing, I will still go with the group and would like to be able to carry a weapon for my own well being, protection, coyotes, etc.

**ID: 1095**

I thoroughly enjoy my time spent hunting deer in the Black Hills. I think the mile weather had an affect as to my not seeing any real good bucks. Looking forward to next year. Game, Fish and Parks do a great job! Thanks.

**ID: 1100**

I saw a mountain lion (very large & fat) about 35 yards from myself and hunting partner. We watched it for about 10 minutes. It saw us and was not afraid of us; it just kept doing its thing.

**ID: 1104**

Population of mountain lions grossly underestimated by GF&P. I have talked with other folks about lions and sightings are more frequent and in larger areas. Even outside of the Black Hills.

Too many roads in the Black Hills. Majority of people road hunt.

Getting a tag should be easier, like over-the-counter unlimited tags. Maybe have more restrictions on the bucks that are three or four points. Before you can harvest to keep quality deer, keep antlerless season.

**ID: 1106**

I believe the mountain lions should be reduced in population greatly. They are moving out across the state and they are threatening our lives, our kids lives and our livestock and pets.

**ID: 1107**

I would like to see the Black Hills doe deer season split into two periods, one from Nov. 1st through Nov. 15th, and the second from Nov. 16th through Nov. 30th. This would allow people that hunt together; stand a better chance of getting tags at the same time, no matter what part of the month is hunted.

**ID: 1108**

I feel we need to cut down on non-resident tags and turn the two-point minimum into three-point minimum. The Black Hills could get better quality bucks. A lot of residents who go spend money out of state would stay here and hunt keeping the money in state.

**ID: 1110**

Elk are now the predominant wildlife in the Black Hills. Herds of 250, cows, calves, and 20+ bulls are common. They are nice to see, but very frustrating to have. My wife and I have 18 preference points and have not had the opportunity to harvest an elk in my state. Your system discriminates against the long-time hunter.

**ID: 1112**

I am about to retire from the military. I have enjoyed the opportunity to come back to the state to hunt. Not having to go through the lottery has meant I could participate if I had the time off. Thanks.

This question never was clear to me – how important is it to fill tags (even if it meant shooting does)?

**ID: 1113**

The “two points or better” rule was a good decision and seems to have improved the number and quality of good bucks.

**ID: 1114**

My wife and I saw a mountain lion on 11-7-04 at 11:15 p.m. in Bear Gulch. It crossed our path (skid our trail) 50-70 yards in front of us. It paid no attention to us and walked away into a brushy area. I observed it through my scope and my wife observed it through binoculars. Some people my wife knows saw a lion at about the same time on the same day, but about three miles south of our location.

**ID: 1116**

You should split the Black Hills buck season into two seasons, early and late. Then there wouldn't be so many hunters in the field at once, this would improve safety and make the hunting season much more enjoyable. Also offer more any deer tags.

**ID: 1118**

I think there are too many mountain lions in SD. I hope something can be done about them before someone is killed. When lions are found in cities, it is too dangerous. Since they have no enemies, they should be shot.

**ID: 1119**

I would like to see a season with a certain tagging procedure. I hunted in New Mexico, the way they do it is sell the tags over-the-counter and have a quota of a certain number, once that number is met the season is over, Instead of issuing a set number of tags. This brings more profit and gives more people a chance to hunt.

**ID: 1125**

Best hunt in the Black Hills I've had in years. The only thing I miss is being able to plan a hunt with a group of friends.

**ID: 1127**

I think the 2+ or better buck license was a good idea. The quality of bucks in the Black Hills is a lot better. Just issue more licenses. Thank you.

**ID: 1129**

Over the last six years, I have seen the quality of herds increase. I have also seen the quality of bucks increase tremendously with bigger deer, bigger and heavier racks. However, I do believe that in the next couple of years there will be a buck to doe ratio that will be out of balance. This needs to be looked at.

To answer question #21, I believe I need to know what you classified as a viable population. For example, how many cats per 50 miles?

**ID: 1130**

The quantity and quality of bucks in the Black Hills is steadily increasing each year. I believe this program is working well. But, would like to see it increased to a three point on one side minimum. A word about West River deer hunting, I bought a two-tag permit which I could not use because the landowner were I hunt closed his land to us because of the conflict with GF&P. I am not happy at all about this situation. It needs to be resolved A.S.A.P. The land that was Walk-In was like a war zone. Way too many hunters because of the situation — very dangerous! Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**ID: 1131**

1. I shot my 2-point deer before seeing the nice ones opening day — darn!
2. I observed a private landowner cutting down trees to block trails that lead up and behind their property.
3. I am against closing Forest Service roads and trails due to the few that ruin it for the rest of us. My family spends our vacation riding in the Black Hills. We don't litter, start fires, or damage areas. We do clean up after others. If we have to start paying dues for licenses or stay on main roads, the U.S. Forest Service can start cleaning up.
4. East and West Coast people that are buying up our Black Hills should never be allowed to vote.
5. I believe the average hard worker in this State doesn't matter to the big monies, just Dakota Safari, and out-of-staters with money.

Thank you is few and far between. So to those of you who really care, Thank you for everything that you do.

**ID: 1133**

I would like to see hunting only 4x4 bucks or larger. Let the small bucks grow up!!

**ID: 1134**

Seen lots of deer and the hunting conditions were good. The lions were here before us.

**ID: 1136**

Thank you Mr. Gigliotti, for helping make this survey possible.

Initially, I was very much against changing the Black Hills deer season from unlimited tags to a lottery system. However, I've grown to like the present system. The Black Hills deer hunt is now synonymous with being a very quality hunt. (i.e., much fewer hunters and a good chance of seeing a very nice buck — although I didn't see one this year, I saw three last year when I was taking my boys hunting).

**ID: 1139**

I think that there should be either more doe tags or offer a double doe tag. There are so many does that they are becoming overcrowded. Looking at the number of does that are killed by vehicles on the road should indicate a need for more control. The bucks are of quality with the new reduced amount of licenses. Please consider an increase in the doe tags.

**ID: 1140**

I think the doe ratio is high. Either a special season or double tag for one year would be good.

**ID: 1143**

I love hunting deer in the Black Hills, it is a family tradition, that has been passed down from generation to generation. Now my children (Brianna 7, Dawson 3 and Allison 1 yr.) all go with us on almost every hunt. I think that the number of non-resident licenses should be decreased and residents should have a better chance of getting their licenses every year, even if the price of the resident licenses increase. It is very disappointing to the whole family when we do not draw a license. I feel that it is unfair that out-of-state hunters, who do not pay any SD taxes and get a tag, when many residents (who pay taxes) go without a Black Hills deer tag for one year or even consecutive years.

This is a sport that SD families can do together and I believe that GF&P can be a big part of family "activities," by possibly increasing SD residents chances to draw a Black Hills deer tag! Thank you for all you do!

**ID: 1150**

I don't like mountain lions in the Black Hills. I like being the top of the food chain!

**ID: 1152**

There are many hunters, such as myself that are on oxygen 24 hours a day that can't walk more than a few yards. I would like to see the law changed to allow us to shoot from improved roads and from a vehicle, but only in safe areas.

I think if you increased the number of deer each hunter could take, you wouldn't have any need for mountain lions. No one should have to fear being mauled or killed when they walk in the woods and are unarmed.

**ID: 1156**

In my county, Hand, we have a lot of people hunting. I would like to see buck tags increase to \$100.00, so young kids are not shooting all of the small bucks. I think there should be an 8 - day muzzleloader hunting season before the rifle season and is able to take bucks. I like the GF&P acquiring more public land for hunting including Walk-In Areas. I think wardens need to show more respect towards the public and less arrogance.

**ID: 1157**

This was my first Black Hills deer hunt. The experience was good due to being with family, the scenery, etc., but it was disappointing to have the "2+-point buck only" tag. We saw so many doe, and I feel that it would've been nice to actually come back with something after having spent so much money on the trip (tag, gas, lodging, etc.).

**ID: 1162**

The concern I have about hunting is the 4-wheelers running around in the Black Hills. We saw signs of new tracks made through streams. They destroy habitat, and when hunting they should be walking instead of using those machines. Also, when camping. My opinion.

**ID: 1165**

Would like to see the season go to three point or four point or better and be able to buy tags over-the-counter again so we could go as a family again. Thanks.

**ID: 1168**

I think everyone that lives around mountain lions should be educated about them. They can be deadly if you don't use the right precautions. Yet this far they have not hurt or harmed a human; only animals. Thank you.

**ID: 1177**

I thought the deer hunting this year was the best I have had in years. I enjoy hunting in the Black Hills over any other hunting in the state.

I've seen mountain lions when hunting in the Black Hills along with other wildlife. I enjoy seeing wildlife in the Black Hills when I'm there. The mountain lions have just as much right to live there as any other wildlife. I think GF&P should be able to keep a balance.

**ID: 1183**

I think it is time to get the dirt bikes and 4-wheelers out of the woods. Completely out of the woods. Especially, during any hunting season. Most, not all hunters on 4-wheelers, etc., do not pay attention to the rules. Like going around locked forest service gates, through the woods anywhere they want, not on roads and trails. One may walk in for miles on a road or trail (with locked gates) or anywhere in the timber and all of a sudden here comes one or two or half a dozen 4x4's whizzing by. Fast. Besides they ruin or tear up the draws they go up and down where they leave the road and approach the road. They scare the game so if you do see something, they are all scared. Mostly they don't carry their rifles in the scabbards legal. It's not fair for what they do to our forest and ground. And not fair to the hunters. And not fair to the game. It's not even fair in the summer when no season is on. Not fair to our game, any animal large or small. It's bad enough if they stayed on the road, but real, real, bad "off road"! Thanks.

**ID: 1184**

I believe drawing for tags has increased the quality and age of the bucks. I hunted once in 1993 and didn't see any bucks. I didn't go back until 2004, now the bucks are getting bigger and more plentiful. I was impressed with my hunt in the Black Hills this year. Even more impressive to me was the great numbers of elk that I saw. Somewhere between 200 and 300. A few really nice bulls also. We hunted southwest of Hill City, near Moon.

**ID: 1188**

My concern about mountain lions is I live next to US Forest Service and like to walk and ride horse back alone. So far I've only seen tracks in the snow, but it is a concern. One of the reasons we moved here was to enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills. I think the population of mountain lions should be controlled. As the deer season progressed I noticed most of the deer we seen were near populated areas. If the mountain lions follow the deer, this could present a problem in the future. Thanks for a great season.

**ID: 1194**

I think that the GF&P is doing a great job with mountain lion control. A season could create orphan kittens that would probably turn out to be problem cats. If a season on cats was started I feel that the permits should be handled to harvest the problem cats. I vote no for an open season! Cats are living near our home, with no problems.

I feel there should be more buck-only tags and change "any-deer" tags to "any-antlerless" deer tags. The bucks are too easy to kill during the rut. More tags, but end the season on November 15th. Maybe start October 15th in lieu of November 1st. This would allow more tags with the same harvest. But the mature deer would not be killed while their mind was not on survival-A much better hunting experience for all including the deer. Thank you.

**ID: 1198**

I only hunted 3 days during somewhat warm conditions with no snow. I'm sure I would have seen bigger bucks with better weather conditions and more time in the field. Thanks!

**ID: 1208**

I live in the Black Hills in the Johnson Siding area. We currently have way too many deer. An average of 8 to 10 are killed weekly on Highway 44 West between Johnson Siding and Rapid City. I would recommend more tags (any-deer) in coming years to reduce this growing population. Automobiles are a bigger threat to deer than mountain lions!

**ID: 1213**

Recently while hunting deer in the Black Hills, I had a close encounter with a mountain lion. It did not back down; he stood and growled at me. He was about 10 feet from me. It scared the hell out of me. I retreated back down the hill, and did not hunt any more.

**ID: 1215**

Thanks for your interest.

**ID: 1220**

The mountain lion was seen by myself and my hunting partner. We were driving down Higgins Gulch and saw the cat very close to the road. We got a good look, the mountain lion was black! I have not seen a mountain lion until this one. I have enjoyed years of deer hunting in the Black Hills and really don't care to encounter a mountain lion.

**ID: 1230**

At least twice I've seen the department seeking information concerning doing a first draw to pick the most important deer season to the person. I'm strongly in favor of such an approach. Doing a process that would enhance the likelihood of drawing in your most important area/unit has a real likelihood of increasing hunting satisfaction. For example, I have this year: Black Hills Buck, West River Special Buck, two units of West River deer, and multiple West River black powder licenses. One of them is very important to me. The others are additional opportunities. Thank you.

**ID: 1236**

The questions for the survey were interesting to answer and to think about. As for the mountain lions, they are fine to have if held to a number not to bother people. As a livestock owner I believe that you can not tie our hands to protect what is ours. If you

want to tie our hands, then you need to compensate for mountain lion damages, or we don't need them at all.

**ID: 1240**

I have hunted the Black Hills with my grandpa and dad. I shot a 6x6 whitetail buck that scored a 162 B & C. Best deer I have ever shot. I hunt East and West River deer too. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 1241**

I think a mountain lion season would be good for the Black Hills for the fact it would maybe ease peoples minds a little. Plus it would help control the population for there seems to be less and less fear within the cat population.

**ID: 1245**

I would like to see all deer applicants apply for only one first choice-one application for East River, West River and Black Hills one first choice. It has become difficult to draw a license. Some people have all three licenses. This would be a fair solution. Based on my observations more Black Hills permits could be issued for the bucks only tag.

The current suggestion to allow landowners to kill mountain lions when there is no season is ridiculous. A season in the Black Hills, for that matter, West River with a quota would reduce the population as well as reduce the pioneering by young animals into less favorable areas.

**ID: 1248**

I have noticed my quality bucks in the Black Hills even though I wish I didn't have to apply for a tag. I think the GF&P's plan of two-point or better is working very well.

**ID: 1265**

I do not agree with allowing the city to kill deer when there are hunters being turned down for licenses. Hunters pay for a license while the city's sharpshooters cost us way too much money. Common sense goes a long way.

**ID: 1267**

Keep up the good work.

**ID: 1268**

I am concerned about the decline in the deer population that I have witnessed in the past several years. I believe steps need to be taken immediately to control mountain lion population in the Black Hills. Black Hills hunting opportunities are too valuable to hunters and non-hunters in the form of lost revenue from Hotels, Motels, Restaurants, Fuel stations, etc.

Controlling and possibly in my and other deer hunting friends' opinions are to eradicate mountain lions from the Black Hills region. Human lives, livestock, lost deer hunting opportunities and lost revenue are too important to me as a Black Hills deer hunter. Thank you.

**ID: 1273**

The 2-point restriction showing great results for the Black Hills deer season.

**ID: 1283**

Continue to keep antler restrictions in place. Continue to make deer and elk hunting by applications only.

**ID: 1284**

I think having the drawing is the best thing you have ever done. More bucks and bigger bucks than I've ever seen!

**ID 1285**

When the cougar population starts affecting some areas safety, then they need to be managed. If they lose their sense of wild and become a danger, they need to be removed. Otherwise it is nature and let them be. To have a hunting season for them would only bring in dog pack hunters and that should be unacceptable as it is inhumane.

**ID: 1287**

I would like to see the antlerless season run during the same dates as the buck season.

**ID: 1288**

We live just outside of Custer, SD and have so many deer (whitetails and mulies) spending time on our property that they have eaten everything (including pine needles) that they can reach. This has eliminated a decade's worth of regeneration of pine, aspen and other plant species. We also have seen resident lions here, but they seem to have no impact on the overpopulation of deer, although I am sure they help.

**ID: 1291**

I have been hunting the Black Hills since I was 12 years old. It comes down to a very simple system for most animals including deer. If there is plenty of food and cover they will thrive. By dropping the hunting pressure has helped. When you allow herds of cattle and other grazers to occupy the feeding areas this usually wipes out deer feeding grounds, which will push the deer to where there is not competition in feeding. My father-in-law is a large farmer and it's amazing how fast 100 head of cattle can clean out a pasture or a cornstalk field. I understand that it's really hard to use land in all systems to satisfy everyone. It seems in the deeper parts of the Black Hills where there are more woods and less valleys for feeding; ranchers have grazed the land. This pushes deer and elk to areas of ranch to find feed once again because the grazing lands are empty. The American way is what makes the most money; it's not good for the system or area! Ranching and logging brings more money, so it doesn't matter what the deer, elk or mountain lions need. Thank you for hearing what I have to say.

**ID: 1292**

The deer in the Black Hills are not affected by the mountain lion population. The lions have been around for longer than we have. They have the right to live as much as we do. The deer I killed this year was very nice. It did not appear to be worried about anything unnatural. Please send me some feedback.

**ID: 1293**

I think GF&P should have a mountain lion season. Mountain lions are killing a lot of deer and they need to be thinned out.

I didn't see any big bucks this year, but they are here and I saw 4 bucks on a pickup that were very nice wall hangers.



**ID: 1300**

If a mountain lion kills a doe deer after the breeding season, the lion has killed from one to three deer. This is a great impact on the deer population. Considering that white-tail deer get a disease that is fatal to them.

In the 1960's, my brother was a federal trapper for the southern Black Hills area, at that time it was estimated there were four or five lions in the Black Hills area. To me that was a sufficient number considering what they (the lions) likes for its private territory.

**ID: 1301**

I see people misbehaving while hunting on ATV's and in other vehicles. Driving around locked gates or driving through the forest (down ridges, etc.). I don't ever see any conservation officers back in the woods. I guess they are too busy out on the main roads getting people to shoot at the fake deer. I think we need to educate people about why they shouldn't shoot off the road or drive around gates that are locked, instead of using all our resources to man these fake deer activities. I feel prevention through education would be a better way to modify peoples' actions, rather than enticing them to break the law.

**ID: 1302**

Need to increase lotto. I would like to hunt with my hunting partner. He gets a tag – I don't. I get a tag – he doesn't. Not fun and not safe.

**ID: 1303**

This year was one of the best seasons I can remember in the Black Hills. My oldest son who is 8, was able to be with me when I harvested my deer. My wife also hunted and harvested her first deer this year. The quality of bucks is also improving. I would like to see the process of receiving a tag for SD residents become easier and more of a consistent thing on an annual basis.

**ID: 1306**

Seen a lot of doe, very few bucks. Too many hunters this year.

**ID: 1307**

We need a mountain lion season!

**ID: 1311**

I feel GF&P is on the right track with its management of Black Hills deer numbers. My only suggestion would be further antler restrictions, allowing bucks another year of growth before they are harvested.

**ID: 1316**

There are getting to be too many people hunting off of 4-wheelers. Driving up and down hills wherever they want. They are really making a mess of the camping areas in Boulder Canyon. I have no problem with them driving on the roads, but they need to be stopped from driving off roads. Someday, I would like to see all roads shut down for hunting seasons. If you had to walk in everywhere, the bucks would get bigger and there would be more tags to give out, because fewer deer would be shot.

**ID: 1321**

I would like to see an adjustment in the licensing availability to ensure family and long time hunting partners are able to get licenses and hunt together. The ability to purchase

a "trophy buck" license, at whatever price would allow those who wish to hunt to go to the woods with their kids, grandkids and friends and enjoy the season.

The present arrangement has all but destroyed the deer camp I hunt in that has been going since 1929. I hate to lose the tradition and education for my grandkids and sons and daughters.

**ID: 1324**

Due to limited doe hunting in the Black Hills unit there is an overpopulation of does, especially whitetails. Maybe buck-only licenses should revert to doe (whitetail) the last few days of the season to reduce the whitetail population.

**ID: 1326**

I feel that while archery hunting a person should be allowed to carry a pistol for self-protection only. As a suggestion, a pistol permit with the archery tag as an option, but with the permit the deer has to be checked by an official upon harvesting.

I feel I am fortunate to have seen several lions in my lifetime.

**ID: 1329**

I feel hunters should be allowed to carry a pistol even when archery hunting, not to take game with, but for personal protection from mountain lions, but not to hunt mountain lions. I am unaware of persons' rights about this subject! Personal protection from mountain lions! If I were faced with a bad confrontation with a mountain lion, I would rather live.

**ID: 1334**

I am very impressed with the amount and the quality of the bucks that I am seeing. The change instituted in 1995 did what it was meant to do.

**ID: 1335**

I think the Black Hills should be for residents only. There are enough ranchers who have deer to sell. I hope they go broke. All the laws in SD should be put up to public vote. It's not fair to have a couple of people telling everybody they can't road hunt pheasants, or give hunting licenses to ranchers to sell. Road hunting is a tradition that goes back a long time. My family has been in SD since 1880.

I think the GF&P is doing a good job, you don't need farmers and ranchers to change all the rules just so they can make a buck or two.

**ID: 1336**

It seems to me that there will certainly be an attack by a lion in the future. We live 3 miles from Custer and can find cat tracks very regular near our home. There is a large supply of game here, but an injured or sick cat may turn to unnatural food. I also see lone jogger's miles from town in total darkness and wonder if it's lack of knowledge or foolishness. Information may help in the one case, but you can't cure stupidity.

**ID: 1337**

I believe the turkey population is a little high, so a suggestion would be to issue double tags to hunters in 2005.

**ID: 1338**

Disabled hunter permit #841- this permit allows me to get out in the woods with my son who has hunted with me since age 12 (now 45).

**ID: 1350**

Our group felt that both the bucks to does ratio and quality of the bucks seen has improved noticeably over the past few years and believe your management policies are to get credit.

We (as a group) would like to have the option of “ purchasing” preference points every other year if that could insure us a license the following year. Thank you.

**ID: 1363**

Four wheelers and any other motorized ATV's should be banned for off road use. They ruin more than half of the foot stocks of big game.

**ID: 1373**

I have fun when I hunt. If I shoot a buck, that is good, and if I don't I am satisfied to go out there and be with my family. I would not shoot a tiny buck that is legal, because I do not believe that it should be like that. A decent buck to me is a 4x4 or something around that. I enjoy Black Hills deer hunting, and you guys have done a lot to get the bucks like they are. You have come a long way. I have seen the biggest bucks of my life, and I thank you guys a lot for giving me a chance to experience that. Thank you!

I do not believe that mountain lions are that big of a problem. I haven't even seen one. My grandpa lives out in the Black Hills and hunts all the time, and he hasn't even seen one. That is what I think about the mountain lions, and thank you again!

**ID: 1381**

My dad and I drove four hundred miles to see and attempt to kill a mature old buck. But we only saw three during shooting hours, but they were young. We got one, but it was also very young. It was fun hunting in a different setting, but hard to kill a mature buck or see one for that matter. We saw a lot of deer on people's lawns and a lot in the Hill City Cemetery, but of course are all non-hunting areas. Overall, it was an enjoyable first time hunt in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1386**

I think the deer population in the Black Hills is good. Cars (autos) kill a lot more deer than lions and hunters. Do we need a way to keep deer off the highways?

**ID: 1388**

I live in an area that has had the presence of a cat. Somewhat concerned since I exercise before dawn. In my neighborhood we have the most deer I have ever seen. A lot of good bucks (whitetails)!

**ID: 1393**

I believe a mountain lion hunting season does not go far enough. Mountain lions should be treated the same as coyotes – if for no other reason than to increase their fear of man. Similar to coyotes, you won't be able to shoot them into extinction from the state. I have encountered mountain lions more than once while viewing wildlife in the Black Hills National Forest. In more than half of these instance the mountain lions exhibited absolute indifference to my presence.

**ID: 1394**

I was pretty satisfied with my 2004 Black Hills deer season, but it is in my opinion that out-of-state hunters should be more limited in their chances of drawing the tag. I know many state area resident hunters that have problems drawing, and then I see more out-of-state and out-of-area (West River) hunters than I do local hunters. I don't agree with this.

**ID: 1400**

A group of 7 hunters hunted together and made drives, resulting in having a good chance of getting a buck. We took 4 bucks and 1 doe in 1½ days of hunting. It was the best hunting we have experienced in years. I think G F & P are improving the quality of the hunt in the Black Hills as the years go by.

**ID: 1402**

Since the state went to a drawing, the overall enjoyment of hunting has left for my family and me. We're not concerned about harvesting a deer, but harvesting lasting family memories. Please go to a 3 to 4 point minimum and open up the number of licenses.

**ID: 1404**

I haven't hunted Black Hills deer for 20 years. I usually hunt East & West River deer. I would like to continue Black Hills hunting to get familiar with areas, so I can hunt elk some day there. I need to work on my direction, roads and landmarks. My hunt was very nice and relaxing. I was very satisfied. Thanks GF&P Department for all you do!

**ID: 1412**

1. Too much 4 wheeler traffic in non-motorized areas, need harsher penalties, plus numbers on 4-wheelers to report law breakers.
2. Seeing many more nice bucks – stay with the 2 point or better system. Possibly more antlerless tags to lower doe ratios, more food, bigger bucks.

GF&P does a great job of managing our wildlife. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 1414**

I feel we have too many lions in the Black Hills. Take out the extra cats and sell a few more deer licenses. The state could make more money selling some lion tags and about 100 extra deer tags for every lion taken. That on a yearly basis. I feel the quality of the bucks in the Black Hills has improved the last few years. The state wants to raise license fees. Do what the states around us do, put the pay hike on the non-residents and not the resident.

**ID: 1424**

Black Hills buck tags ought to be four points or better to allow those little bucks to grow up. No youth hunting season; scares the deer for archery hunters. Any-deer tags should be four points or better.

**ID: 1428**

My hunting experiences in SD have gotten better and better each year. The quality of the hunt has increased 10 fold. Thank you!

Need to issue more elk tags. We are raising elk for WY residents to harvest. Please more elk tags.

**ID: 1430**

A person who year after year applies for Black Hills license and has so for 20 or years, should have priority over others for licenses. The size of bucks is going down in the last two years.

**ID: 1433**

I'm still hoping to see a mountain lion, I live in the Black Hills and still haven't seen one.

**ID: 1434**

I believe the limited buck-only tags have increased the quality of our buck population throughout the Black Hills area. I do believe if the number of mountain lions increases in the area, it is possible an ugly encounter with a human is just around the corner. Possibly having a hunting season on them could limit this opportunity.

**ID: 1435**

I feel the 2 point or better for buck-only tags is a good idea. But I've been hunting with 3 generations of family and friends, and feel that it is important to keep the tradition alive. I feel having the lottery drawing is fine, but would like to see residents who send in for licenses by the deadline date, all receive licenses. The applying by mail on a pre-determined deadline date would show commitment by groups and allow the entire group the opportunity to participate. Please consider this change.

**ID: 1436**

I have hunted deer in the Black Hills every year since the late 1950's. Heavy timber harvesting began about 25 years ago and at that time we used to tag 8 to 10 bucks a year. GF&P explained that this thinking would open up the forest and the trophy deer would flourish and the deer population would increase. This did not happen. It got worse and the timber or logging industry removed most of the Juniper and ground cover and placed miles of new roads in the woods. About the same time, the regulation of cattle grazing must have changed because now there is over-grazing and the plants the deer thrive on are chewed off to the ground. Now the GF&P say "look how we have increased the elk habitat." You changed your tune.

**ID: 1438**

I don't agree with giving one person 3 tags (East, West, & Black Hills) and then turning down someone for just Black Hills tags.

**ID: 1439**

Overall the deer population and quality of bucks has increased. Several areas where I have hunted, the doe population seemed very low.

**ID: 1441**

People need to be educated in that mountain lions have been around for years. Everyone acts like they just appeared like magic and that they don't belong here. They were here long before us, and should remain here at all costs to cattle or sheep. But if numbers reach too many for the carrying capacity for the land and food sources, hunting may be needed. Also if "trouble" animals are too close to humans to be considered safe, reduction or hunting is acceptable.

I'm a proud member of "PETA"  
People – Eating – Tasty – Animals

**ID: 1442**

It seems the Black Hills deer hunt was very uncrowded and would like to see more licenses for residents only.

I saw plenty of bull elk in the area I hunted. Maybe make the Black Hills deer season for residents only like the elk season?

**ID: 1446**

I think Hills people should have first chance on Hills deer because some people can't afford to go back east and pay to hunt.

**ID: 1452**

I would strongly suggest removing questions related to lions from this survey. The front cover of this particular survey indicated that it is a Black Hills deer survey, not a lion survey! A separate survey for lions would be much more appropriate

**ID: 1455**

People bothered by having mountains lions in the Black Hills should move back to their big protected cities where they belong. Nature is not just pretty views, but also ugly, violent and dangerous. Ranchers should know that lions were here before their livestock and have more right to exist on the land than cows or sheep. It is because of the ranchers that mountain lions were a protected species to begin with.

**ID: 1457**

To many does in the Black Hills! How about an incentive, such as kill a doe and receive a buck tag?

**ID: 1471**

Season should not open until Nov 15th each year. We saw lots of does and Moms, but no bucks.

I also saw 154 elk, the most I have ever seen.

**ID: 1473**

Normally I would hunt at least 4 days, but this year time and work did not allow. The 2-point rule has really increased the quality and number of bucks I seen over the years. Keep up the good job of management.

**ID: 1475**

I was disappointed at the number of people driving around hunting deer. They were using radios and were disturbing the environment for the conventional deer hunter.

**ID: 1477**

Lions are very hard to find and hunt.

**ID: 1481**

The Black Hills are too small to have populated to have mountain lions. Also, an old friend long deceased said the sorriest thing he ever did was to help introduce beaver to the Black Hills.

**ID: 1482**

I took pictures of the footprints; there was fresh snow that morning. I was told it was a small one. Lack of time was this years issue.

**ID: 1484**

Black Hills deer hunting is a hunt I go on with my brother, dad and friends. It would be nice if the forest service would not close the roads.

**ID: 1486**

Send someone else your surveys. I did not hunt in the Black Hills, but have gotten three surveys from you, and I won't apply for a permit again because of that.

**ID: 1492**

The years that I do not draw a deer tag are very frustrating to me. Not being able to carry a gun and join a license hunter is to me a sick form of gun control that should not be allowed. There are several factors to consider here. There is no way in hell that I would shoot a deer for another hunter. There is no way in hell that I if I chose to poach a deer that I am going to drive miles from my home to do that. I would open my living room window and do that. No one would ever know it, but me. Carrying a gun and being able to hunt a legal predator should never be denied. I hope someone will strike from the books such a foolish attempt to further control our rights to carry arms.

**ID: 1494**

We need to remind the cats to fear man!

**ID: 1497**

I am very satisfied with Black Hills deer hunting. I believe the mountain lions should be left alone unless landowners with livestock are having a problem, at which time they should be allowed to take care of the problem themselves with no repercussion from the GF&P.

**ID: 1498**

The buck to doe ratio seems to be getting better year after year, but in my opinion, it still needs to be improved. I feel some states have made great progress in their management and it would benefit South Dakota to continue to study other methods that have been tried.

**ID: 1506**

I feel they should issue more resident Black Hills licenses and fewer out-of-state licenses. Put a higher license fee for out-of-state hunters, instead of resident hunters who pay all the taxes.

If we have to send our deer teeth in, I feel the GF&P could send back the age of that deer if we request it.

**ID: 1509**

I am writing to ask why as a resident we are not able to acquire doe licenses over-the-counter? I believe that the population is too high and there are not enough harvested to keep the population from getting diseases that could kill hundreds of animals. I would also like to add that maybe a later rifle season for bucks only would be helpful in allowing the larger more mature bucks to breed and pass on their genes before being harvested. I only suggested this because I've heard that the size of the animal at the time has a lot to do with the offspring's size later in life. Is there a way that a hunter could acquire additional tags late in the season? If so, I would appreciate hearing how to go about receiving one, for this is my main source of meat for the year.

**ID: 1514**

I am a native of Deadwood area, and a life long hunter. I also have been a logger my entire life. This has allowed me countless hours of watching wildlife, all over the Black Hills, and I have indeed witnessed some drastic changes in wildlife numbers and behavior, both good and bad.

The good news is; the elk numbers are up in the northern hills due to more open areas created by fires. The bad news is, good whitetail hunting is going to be a thing of the past if several steps aren't taken real soon. Many parts of the Northern Black Hills, (National Forest land) are being extremely over-grazed by cattle in summer and fall. Just go up and take a good look. In the fall after they've moved the cattle out. Stripped! Water is another critical factor that is rapidly disappearing in the Black Hills. Existing springs of any kind should be developed for wildlife. We've driven the O'Neill Pass Highway to work off and on for 40 years now. It use to be, we didn't even attempt to count the number of whitetail we would see off the highway. Some early mornings I'm sure it was in the hundreds. Now when season is not on, it's a pretty good morning if you see 20 head before the Wyoming line. Of course this was back when it took 2 men to load a decent buck.

You've probably noticed over all weight of a Northern Black Hills whitetail buck has gone down in the past 30 years. Why? Traveling farther for less? Dwindling water supply of good water? Loss of critical habitat and food sources both in the summer and especially in the winter. When they head down to the foothills to their old frosty meadows, only to discover yet another housing development. People think there are so many deer around and in towns. Many fail to remember, or care, that this was critical whitetail habitat. Why are the deer coming into towns? Where else are they supposed to feed without competing with large numbers of other deer that are doing the same thing, simply trying to stay alive in the ever increasing shrinking habitat of our beautiful Black Hills Forest. Let's not fail to mention the stress this wildlife is under. 4-wheelers in the summer, snowmobiles in the winter, bikers, hikers, joggers, loggers, and hunters. We are all adding to an already stressed species. This includes every wild animal that is left. Some say the mountain lion population has increased. Why wouldn't they when they have an abundance of hungry stressed deer around in small areas, at the exact time when animals need food the most (winter)? Some people say the lions are coming into town and even looking in peoples' windows. Wouldn't be the same window that these same people enjoy watching deer from? Believe me that if the deer had a choice, they wouldn't be there. Combine all of this with the drought that this area is in and it all spells trouble. These animals are a very good barometer for what's going on here in the Black Hills, and quite frankly, there appears to be tough sledding ahead.

I would ask for all true sportsmen and women to come together with State GF&P people and attempt to procure critical habitat in and around the foothills of the Black Hills and manage it for wildlife. We've all got to ask ourselves, does every square inch of these very special Black Hills have to be developed for mankind? Rather than develop all houses, lets develop some food plots away from the houses and away from the interstate and roads where people are continuing to run over deer, because the only thing to eat is either in the ditches or across the roads from their bedding grounds. Let's develop some springs and seeps for the wildlife. In general, let's all start thinking about a different form of a \$-buck. I will donate all the time I possibly can spare to any landowner or government agency that is truly interested in helping the wildlife through the tough times that most certainly lie ahead. Thank you GF&P for hearing me out.



**ID: 1526**

You do not have 1/10 Th. the deer that was in the Black Hills when it was at its peak. I have always hunted in the northern Black Hills next to the Wyoming line. When you have a doe season hunters don't shoot the problem deer next to town, they go to the remote areas and shoot the does next to the road. The forest is another problem. It has been so badly neglected with down trees and brush you cannot even walk through it to hunt. We certainly do not need lions and coyotes eating our deer.

**ID: 1527**

Many areas in the Black Hills have too many does (deer). Doe road-kill numbers in areas as many as one per mile, and other areas six to a mile. Many areas the does are real small and they have a hard time competing for food. Possibly the doe season should be extended or more tags, or a one-week unfilled tag can take a doe? I know it's nature's way when there isn't enough food, and many die if there is a hard winter, but it seems such a waste.

**ID: 1529**

On November 27, 2004, my hunting partner and myself came upon a freshly killed fawn that was partially eaten (all of one hind quarter and most of the rib cage area). With the fresh snow on the ground, it was very easy to see where the mountain lion stalked and caught the deer. This was a very fresh kill, as the carcass was still limp, and even though it had snowed during the night, the fresh mountain lion tracks and almost warm carcass indicated that this kill was probably no more than 2 or 3 hours old. This was not a big cat; judging by the size of the tracks probably no more than 50 to 60 pounds. Quite a thrill to see this for yourself in the wild! This was within 2 miles of the Moon Campground. You can put my name on the list of interested mountain lion hunters. I would like to see the mountain lion population increase in the Black Hills, and hope for hunting opportunities.

**ID: 1538**

Quit selling tags for Black Hills deer to non-resident hunters. If this is a money problem, charge more for resident tags. Most hunters enjoy the Black Hills hunt so much that an extra \$5 or \$10 is a cheap price to pay.

**ID: 1541**

I am a trophy hunter. If the mountain lions eat the fawns-there goes the trophy bucks of the future. What happened to the mule deer bucks? I saw about 15-20 does and not 1 buck. Not even a spike!

**ID: 1545**

All the big bucks I saw were in the city limits. Should be able to hunt in city limits, if done safely. For example, Wis. uses shotguns with pellets. Thank you.

**ID: 1553**

I don't believe they should allow any spike bucks to be killed in any deer season. I would also like to be able to get a license every year.

**ID: 1554**

Many of the questions are very general and hard to give good answers to. For instance, mountain lions are okay, but they need to be controlled. Mountain lions multiply like all animals, if there were 20 mountain lions 10 years ago and they are not hunted or shot, it seems to me there may be 200 now. I don't know what the environment will support, but there has to be a limit.

**ID: 1555**

Mountain lions do concern me as far as the safety of young children. We have not had any attacks so far, but as lion numbers increase with no control it may happen just as in other states with large lion populations such as California, Montana and Colorado. I also believe livestock owners should have the right to kill any lion depredating on their livestock.

**ID: 1563**

It would be nice if the private land in the Black Hills was marked by GF&P. I passed on a couple of bucks because I didn't know if I was on private land or not! The maps aren't accurate. Couldn't the GF&P put up signs similar to the Walk-In Area signs, or come up with a guide with GPS coordinates of the private land. Just a thought. Thanks.

**ID: 1567**

I recently moved back to the Black Hills. This is my first Black Hills deer hunt. I left about 3:00 p.m., and harvested a 4x4 whitetail in 1½ hours. It appears the deer population in the Black Hills is striving.

I think having mountain lions in the Black Hills makes for a great balance. People need to just understand the basics of mountain lions and there would be very few incidents.

I am an avid jeep enthusiast, but I am very aware of "treading lightly". I love the outdoors and the wildlife. I hold a perfect balance with my 4 wheeling and the deer and mountain lion habitat. If we could establish an organized trail system in the Black Hills the 4-wheelers and the habitat could both win.

**ID: 1569**

It was my first time hunting bucks and I loved it. I shot a 4x4 whitetail.

**ID: 1570**

I have enjoyed my Black Hills hunts for the past 20 years. I am disappointed when I don't draw a tag and am unable to enjoy the Black Hills hunting experience. I have seen the quality of bucks increase over time since the 2 point rule has gone into affect. Outside of my archery seasons, the Black Hills rifle hunt is a high light each year. Once again we came across cougar tracks this fall, but have yet to have a sighting. That would be a bonus. I hope to have an opportunity to hunt them someday.

**ID: 1574**

I feel that the deer population has increased in the last few years. I am seeing better bucks and many more of them. The big draw back is the number of people that are hunting out of their vehicles. Maybe the punishment should be increased for people caught poaching or shooting out of their vehicles.

**ID: 1577**

I think buck season should be changed to 3-point or more.

**ID: 1584**

I believe there are too many deer in the Black Hills. The quality of the bucks I saw were bad. There used to be bigger bucks when there wasn't so many deer.

**ID: 1585**

I think the buck to doe ratio is not correct (too many does). Why not sell more doe licenses to those that are unsuccessful when applying for Black Hills buck tags? There is nothing wrong with shooting a doe. It is still a satisfying hunting opportunity.

**ID: 1586**

Black Hills buck season has been a family tradition for the family for the past 75 years. The only discouragement that we have now is the lottery. Some of us get a license and some of us don't. I believe that a lottery would be good for all out-of-state people, but South Dakotans should be able to get a license without the lottery. Having a lottery for deer is like having a lottery for pheasants, not good for South Dakota. I wonder how many out-of-state hunters would even apply if game birds were lotterized. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

**ID: 1589**

I would like to hear that someone has done some research on these cats. So we know roughly how many deer are being killed. Also whether or not other game is being affected such as turkeys.

I have read studies from other states on "lion" habits, relating to their prey. It sounds to me like they can kill a lot of deer over a year, and that concerns me as I have heard there may be as many as a 100 pair in the Black Hills. That is a lot of deer.

Another concern is the apparent over grazing by cattle in many areas, I'm no expert on this, but deer eat the same food as cattle.

**ID: 1593**

My family celebrated the 75th anniversary of our hunting cabin in the Black Hills this past year. Over the last number of years it has been hit and miss for our group to get any number of tags. For the sake of our hunting party and you we would support a higher dollar trophy tag so we could get our hunting group back together for current and future generations.

**ID: 1595**

Black Hills private landowners are really upset about not having landowner area tags or enough for non-resident hunters to supplement their farm income. 400 non-resident tags is a joke. There are ranches overrun with deer and mountain lions. Put out Special Buck non-resident tags for Black Hills and let everyone earn some income. They need 2000 tags. If the GF&P put out 2,000 Special Buck tags at \$505.00 each for non-residents in the Black Hills it would generate one million dollars in income for GF&P! There are tons of deer! Also, think of the boost it would add to the local economy.

**ID: 1597**

It has been a few years since I have hunted Black Hills deer. I was pleased with the number and quality of bucks. Very few hunters in the field. Most were driving the main roads or using ATV's. A simple quarter mile walk and you had the woods to your self. Saw two different sets of tracks. I would like to know the harvest age (from tooth data) of Black Hills bucks.

**ID: 1598**

I would like to say, keep up the good work. I can remember when there were unlimited licenses, and there were no good bucks around to shoot. I believe that if there was more restrictions on the bucks. That would give even more opportunities to take a real good buck out the Black Hills. I would also like to participate in managing the deer herd by

taking does. There are guys that I talk to that want to have a buck license every year, and shoot a trophy buck every year. I don't believe that is possible in the Black Hills. I hope that Game, Fish and Parks never goes back to unlimited buck licenses in the Black Hills. I have one complaint; they need stronger restrictions on the 4-wheelers. If you restrict the gentlemen on the 4-wheelers more. I think the honest hunters (the one's pursuing game by fair chase) will have a more enjoyable hunt.

**ID: 1601**

I would like to see a two-week rifle season, and be able to buy a Black Hills deer tag every year. I would spend \$70.00 to \$80.00 for a tag if I could get a tag every year. There are more deer in the Black Hills that is why there are more mountain lions. That's not that hard to understand. Have a good day.

**ID: 1609**

The State of SD needs to cut back the any deer tags and or the buck-only tags, and increase the doe tags on whitetails. This will increase the buck to doe ratio. It will also result in bigger and better racks for the buck. You will see a lot more deer with bigger horns, also if you increase the point limit instead of a two point raise it to a three point. This will result in an older deer being taken instead of the 1 1/2 to 2 year old deer being shot before they reach their true potential.

These people go out to hunt and they shoot the first buck they see. If you impose the higher point minimum they can shoot this will also help deer to grow older because they have about 2 years to get accustomed to the hunting season. Opening day is a killer for 20% of the deer point limit of 2 points or more. The deer with two points on one side aren't very old. I guess what I'm trying to say is we as Black Hills deer hunters, need to see older deer being taken rather than the younger dumb deer. The deer I shot this year, I'm guessing to be about 3-1/2 to 4 years old.

**ID: 1616**

I think you should reduce the number of out-of-state Black Hill deer hunters. Cater to the residents.

**ID: 1622**

Stop with the any deer tags. The bucks are getting bigger with 2-point or better over the last few years; I have seen more and bigger bucks. Get mountain lions out of South Dakota before someone gets hurt.

**ID: 1623**

I feel that too many of the smaller bucks are being harvested. Therefore, there are not many 4+ point bucks in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1631**

I would like to clarify my answer to question 10. While physically walking through the Black Hills hunting, I did not meet another hunter outside of my hunting party (relatives) by foot. However, there were several hunters using 4-wheelers and pickups, constantly driving up and down back roads in the Black Hills. If the area you were hunting was near one of these off-beaten trails, these hunters interrupted my enjoyment of the hunt.

My family and I have hunted the Black Hills for several years. With the use of the lottery, my family and I no longer are able to have a yearly (guaranteed) hunt like we did when one could buy it over-the-counter. Therefore, as time changes for the type of hunting that may be available, we as hunters look to other avenues to enjoy the hunt. As my children

grow up, it becomes harder to have a place to hunt where on a yearly basis one is able to obtain a license.

I would like to clarify comments on mountain lions. Currently, I do believe there is not a significant problem. However, if the population of mountain lions continues to grow and they (lions) become more accustomed to the residents of South Dakota and start to lose the fear of man, I do believe we will have a problem. It is possible; as others of the US have found out, that mountain lion attacks may/will occur.

**ID: 1633**

I believe that the Black Hills area is too small and heavily populated to have very many or any mountain lions. And to need them to control the other wildlife is totally not needed. I firmly think that we are waiting for an accident to happen. Also deer hunting in the Black Hills will be hurt badly.

**ID: 1639**

I strongly feel there should be a mountain lion season.

**ID: 1640**

The Black Hills deer hunting experience has improved greatly over the last twenty years. The East River deer season has way too many hunters out at the same time. Split the season. Maybe any deer licenses for the first few days and then allow doe tags to hunt.

**ID: 1644**

I live about 1 mile west of Spearfish, SD. I can't help but agree with other people who are saying that the deer population is moving right into town.

I enjoy having the deer around, but they do more and more damage to the yard, garden and trees. I think it is important to keep somewhat in check, this population with deer harvest (hunting seasons).

I have also noticed more mountain lion sign and actually seen 3 lions within ½ mile of home this fall. That is why I appreciate your addressing this issue in the questionnaire. I look forward to seeing how things continue to develop. Thank you!

**ID: 1650**

I think that this was a fun survey. I think that it might be fun to have a mountain lion season.

**ID: 1655**

I archery hunt on private ground west of Newton Hills State Park and I spotted a mountain lion while walking back to my truck in early Dec. 2004.

**ID: 1661**

Question #20:

I don't count it a joy knowing that the lion is out there. You normally do not have the chance to observe them at length in their habitat. I am happy they are no longer an endangered species.

Question #21:

1. It's not a healthy environment when they show up in towns such as, Yankton, Sioux City; and yes healthy if you cut hunting of deer to a minimum. There seems to be more cats than space, as the young are being pushed out to eastern South Dakota and Nebraska, etc.

2. In the canyon where we hunt and own property the deer volume has dropped dramatically, our neighbor and we have both sighted cats. Partly due to being probably pushed out of the area.
3. I'm for a population that reflects the need of balance for both hunter and mountain lion. More lions, less hunting and less revenue for the hunting industry and parks and recreation.
4. The park lands do belong to the people; it is a fact that overpopulation of cats lends to younger animals being pushed to human populated areas. When lions no longer fear humans, we become part of their food chain.

Do you have or have ever had problems modifying your children's behavior, or have they always been perfectly obedient? Children are at most risk.

There was no problem 25 years ago, and with no predator to keep the lion population healthy will we wait until we have problems like Denver?

**ID: 1667**

Let's go back to buying licenses over-the-counter. An increase in elk permits wouldn't hurt. A decrease in cost of elk licenses.

**ID: 1669**

I think the mountain lions are forcing the deer into the cities. I found that there were more deer in town than in the Black Hills (Spearfish area).

**ID: 1670**

While I do not feel that mountain lions are particularly dangerous to people and I also do not think that they are a big threat to livestock, the eastward spread of mountain lions (into Yankton and Sioux City, etc.) shows that there is a healthy population of mountain lions. Efforts to create a season should be put on a fast track before the non-hunted lions do become a danger to people and livestock.

**ID: 1674**

As a retired veteran of 22 years, I have had the opportunity to hunt whitetails in many different states. South Dakota provides one of the better and safer hunting environments I have hunted in. Thanks.

**ID: 1685**

I was upset about the amount of licenses issued. All I had was a doe tag that was 30 miles from our normal area in the Experimental Forrest. There were so many mule deer and whitetail bucks. The population was huge, but the ability to thin them out is your choice. More tags for the prosperous deer population.

**ID: 1692**

Mountain lions may eventually follow the deer into the towns. It appears that there are more deer in town (Spearfish) than in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1694**

This was my first year hunting Black Hills deer and I had a great time and had a successful hunt. It did seem to be very crowded though. I will definitely apply next year.

**ID: 1695**

I think you should make doe licenses available over-the-counter. There are way too many does in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1697**

I feel you should open the doe tags to the whole national forest, instead of having counties. It limits buck hunters hunting with people with doe tags.

**ID: 1698**

Would like to be able to hunt in the Black Hills every year. I live here, own land here, and would like to see an increased opportunity to draw tags in the Black Hills. Let everyone apply for all South Dakota deer licenses together and pick one area, such as the Black Hills, Prairie or East River deer as their first choice. It would clean up road hunting in the Black Hills by giving dedicated Black Hills hunters more opportunity. Thanks.

**ID: 1699**

Hunting today is almost entirely a sporting event and wildlife management tool. Most hunters want a "quality" hunt. Too many deer hunters receive several deer licenses each year. Hunters should have to choose either a Black Hills buck license or a prairie deer buck license. Antlerless permits should be issued in both areas to help keep populations in check. If quotas are not met in the first drawing, leftover license could be offered. As a result, more bucks would survive to older age and the total population would be controlled. All hunters could enjoy a quality hunt of THEIR choosing EVERY year. A quality hunt should involve fair chase. Is riding 4-wheelers all over on and off trails fair chase? Is cruising roads and trails in vehicles in search of a buck fair chase? The willingness of hunters to leave behind all of this technological gadgetry will be directly proportional to the quality of hunting on all public lands.

Mountain lions in Wyoming's Black Hills are hunted annually by quota until the quota is reached or the season closes. Why not adopt a comparable system in SD? We produce many of the lions that Wyoming hunts.

By the way, I shot my Black Hills buck in Wyoming this year because I couldn't draw a SD buck tag. My Black Hills deer hunting history goes back 46 years. I was impressed by the quantity and quality of bucks I saw over the line this year.

**ID: 1704**

The total number of shots fired near me and in my direction will make me seriously reconsider hunting in the Black Hills. I'm appalled at the disregard that these "slob hunters" show towards other hunters and the animals they hurt. We had a pair of hunters, fire at a deer at a slight angle between us and then had the nerve to complain that we spooked the deer. We also heard numerous 4-5 round "bursts". If a hunter can't hit what he is shooting at that shows a lack of skill and respect for the game.

I would support any new seasons or rules that would allow me a more peaceful time outdoors. I plan to start muzzleloader hunting for safety reasons. The Black Hills does not have a muzzleloader season. I will also only hunt with a Black Hills tag on private land.

**ID: 1705**

There is a problem with the mountain lions when the farmers' cattle will not go back into the pasture (mountain lion tracks were found in the pasture). A big problem is when they are in towns and not afraid of people. GF&P need to reduce the population of mountain lions before they attack someone.

**ID: 1706**

My Black Hills deer hunt was especially satisfactory this year because I saw elk for the first time. They dang near scared the crap out of me though!

**ID: 1707**

The GF&P should not wait to take action on the lion reduction before some incident occurs, that will bring disaster public reaction. A family hiking and a small child runs ahead, could invite a lion attack, heaven hope it never happens. If prior to such an incident, if GF&P hasn't started some type of control program, believe me the public is going to come down hard on you. Suggestion-start a control program NOW.

**ID: 1722**

I feel something should be done to reduce the amount of deer that resides within the housing areas in the Black Hills and also the amount of deer in Rapid City.

**ID: 1725**

Keep Black Hills and National Forest open for all types of outdoor recreation including ATV's and 4-wheel vehicles.

**ID: 1729**

I was very disappointed that on applying for a leftover deer tag that it was for antlerless whitetail only, instead of any antlerless deer. My wife and I greatly enjoyed our time together in Unit 401A-06. She didn't hunt this year but loves the woods and likes to go with me. I understand I have preference next year for any deer or buck, only because I didn't get the draw this year. I'm really excited and looking forward to next year. It was a great 10 days. Thank you all so much. You're doing a great job.

**ID: 1734**

I should tell you that most of the deer I saw was within city limits or private property surrounding city limits. It seems like every year I go out to the Black Hills, there is more and more houses popping up on prime hunting grounds. The month of November wasn't the best hunting month because it was too nice and too dry. I know you can't control Mother Nature.

**ID: 1735**

I find it disturbing that I am unable to draw a buck tag, but so many out-of-state hunters are allowed tags regardless.

It would seem more appropriate that the people that live, work and pay taxes in the state of South Dakota year round be given the opportunity to hunt for buck deer before out-of-state hunters get tags. It also seems that preference points are meaningless for elk and deer tags.

**ID: 1736**

It would appear to me that the State of South Dakota is mostly interested in receiving a tourist dollar out of the hunting season, more so then achieving satisfaction from the local hunters. I think there is something wrong when a local resident can not draw a license every year. In my opinion the lottery drawing, over all, is not a very fair system. I would like to see a local Black Hills resident have first priority and opportunity to hunt in my own backyard. I spend a lot of money on gas and food and other expenses, just like a hunter from out of the area would do.

I want to teach my daughters how to hunt; it is pretty hard to do when you can't get a tag. I think this system may hurt future hunting seasons because our youth could get



discouraged because they may not be able to hunt every year. To them it may not be worth the hassle.

These are some of the things that I feel, at this time. I would like to see more fairness come out of the lottery, giving Black Hills residents first chance to hunt at home, for all the main seasons. I love to hunt in the Black Hills, but since the lottery started I have become frustrated and somewhat angry at the whole thing, I would like to see some changes. Thanks for reading my thoughts.

**ID: 1743**

Hunt only problem cats with dogs and a professional guide. Please do not kill any other cats.

**ID: 1744**

The reason I did not hunt – I wrote down the wrong date on my calendars.

**ID: 1745**

While Black Hills deer hunting I experienced seeing many road hunters and other hunters who would honk the horns of their vehicles to ruin other peoples hunting opportunities.

I believe that a mountain lion season should be opened. There is already a great amount of these animals living in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1746**

I was called up for active duty and didn't get to use my license.

**ID: 1747**

The Black Hills season is one of my favorite places to hunt deer. I started going with my dad when I was 12 years old and now it is a tradition.

**ID: 1758**

We live about 1 mile west of Spearfish and a cougar was spotted at 1:00 p.m. on Hillsvie Road that ran south through a residential area. This sighting was reported to the authorities.

While bow hunting (looking for my deer) I came across two fawn carcasses that were located well off the road, but in the same area as above information. They appeared to be recent kills.

**ID: 1761**

Too many mule deer does. They have come back.

**ID: 1767**

I believe it is bordering on too many deer in the Black Hills, especially in where I was in the Spearfish area. I feel the state should consider releasing two-tag licenses or even two separate season single tags. The number of hunters was about right, and I think the overall number at a given time.

**ID: 1769**

I saw far more quality bucks this year than I can remember ever seeing in past years of hunting. Your 2point + program is obviously working.

**ID: 1772**

I am very pleased with the current deer hunting in the Black Hills. Since the implementation of the 2-point minimum and the limited amount of licenses, strategy and the quality and quantity of the deer herd has (in my opinion) been increased dramatically. I spend as much time in the woods as anyone does. I know and I think my observations are proof that this management strategy is working. Keep up the good work. I would rather have a tag every other year (or so) and have a good hunt than have a tag every year and shoot immature bucks. I observed and filmed more than a dozen whitetail bucks this past fall that would have exceeded 140 inches in Boone & Crockett. That is pretty damn good in my book!

**ID: 1775**

I work in rural Lawrence County (namely in the Black Hills) during the summer. During 2004, I observed a robust population of antlerless white-tail deer and virtually no antlered whitetails, especially in August – October. Most were in hunt area 401 and 402. I did not observe nearly as many mule deer in the same areas. In about three hours of hunting, about eight miles southwest of Spearfish, I observed five whitetail does and one buck (a small, but respectable 4x4). These were in the SE ¼ Sec. 1; T5N, R1E and SW ¼ Sec. 6; T5N, R2E.

Regarding mountain lions, several residents/landowners in the Richmond Hill and Terry Peak areas I talked to seem to think there is a significant lion population in that area. Most evidence is in the form of tracks, scat, and an occasional animal kill (turkeys or deer). The actual animal is observed occasionally. A few people have expressed a desire for a limited hunting season to keep the lion population in check.

**ID: 1776**

I was happy with my Black Hills hunting. I just didn't have enough time to hunt as much as I wanted.

**ID: 1781**

I was not happy that I couldn't fill this survey out on-line.

**ID: 1785**

Concerning a mountain lion season, I am opposed to the approach that I am hearing about through the news. That being of a lottery and then being on a "call" list when a problem lion is identified. I am opposed to this because the "hunter" is just a trigger-man for the state at this point, but I am extremely supportive of killing problem lions. What I would like to see implemented is a quota system. That way any person who wants to hunt mountain lions could buy a tag. I would then open the season September 1st through November 30th to hunting without dogs. December 1st through February 28th could then be opened to hound hunters. (The quota could easily be filled after a good snow).

The reasons for this are as follows:

1. It allows anyone that desires to hunt mountain lions the opportunity (regardless of hunting style).
2. It would evenly spread the pressure throughout the Black Hills – leading to an education of mountain lions to avoid humans. During the Sept – Nov season.
3. It would spread the harvest out amongst the whole lion population, not just adult males.
4. The GF&P would still be able to target "problem" mountain lions in the state.

The quota, would in all probability, still be reached by the hound hunters. Therefore, fulfilling the department management goals.

But in the end, I will fully support whatever the GF&P decides to pursue; realizing the strong opposition that will show up to any proposed season.

**ID: 1787**

The biggest disappointment I experienced while hunting was the amount of hunters that violate Walk-In Area regulations. The majority of the areas I hunt on are along closed roads. In a number of these areas, other hunters had made roads around the gates and drove their 4-wheelers down closed roads. I think this is unfair to other hunters and it makes finding uncrowded or sparsely hunted areas hard to find.

**ID: 1796**

I have enjoyed hunting in the Black Hills for many years with my step father and mother and other friends. It is one of the most important joys of the year for me. I love the Black Hills and the beauty of it. I look forward to my trip to the Black Hills every year. Thank you very much!

**ID: 1798**

I would like to see a three or four point buck season and everybody can hunt the way it is with the drawing. It's been along time that my friends and I can hunt together, I get it one year and my friends don't and vice versa. It's a bummer.

I also think that South Dakota is losing a lot of money not letting you buy your tags over-the-counter at Wal-Mart, Kmart, etc., and up the points. Also all of the out-of-state hunters, we are losing that money.

**ID: 1800**

Way too many does in the Black Hills. My doe hunt was 45 minutes long and I had the choice of several. Yesterday, I counted 14 dead deer on the side of I-90 between the Sturgis and WY border. Maybe have some over-the-counter doe tags that are inexpensive. Those of us that actually eat the meat would buy an extra tag.

**ID: 1802**

I hunted for three full days, camped in the Black Hills, and walked nearly 25 miles. I only saw three deer. One was a doe, which I had a license for. I was not able to get a shot off. My area of hunting ground was my third choice. I will not accept an alternate license in the area I have only randomly scouted. My overall experience was disappointing.

**ID: 1809**

I was not selected for a buck tag and had to apply for a doe tag. I received a doe tag for west of Spearfish, which limited my hunting area to one 600 acre ranch. I am not happy with the drawing success as a 35 year old acquaintance has been drawn 7 consecutive times to my 1 time in 5 years. This is crap.

**ID: 1811**

This was my first time hunting deer in the Black Hills. I was invited to join a neighbor, so was just a tag – a – long. I would like to see more information on where to get maps of public access areas in the applications next year, in case I wanted to go on my own. Maybe, I just didn't look hard enough last year. Otherwise I just want to say I have been

hunting in SD since I was old enough to go and have enjoyed every year. Your department does an excellent job and I thank you for your efforts.

**ID: 1818**

Could you not burn during hunting season, please?

**ID: 1825**

Why doesn't the any deer season go from one weekend to the next? It would sure be nice to have two weekends to hunt instead of one.

**ID: 1827**

Overall I enjoy hunting in the Black Hills. However, the continued problem of road hunting bothers me. I would support closing areas of the Black Hills to vehicle traffic. I live in the Black Hills and constantly see individuals driving for deer. I don't think you can provide enough officers in the field to prevent this. Maybe an area closure (similar to winter closure areas) would help.

**ID: 1830**

The hunting in the Black Hills is so much better than it was ten years ago. Thank you for the improved seasons. If I could change a few things though, I would have a split season to reduce hunter overcrowding, reduce season length to allow for larger bucks, establish a muzzleloader season to allow the harvest of antlered deer, provide licenses that protect mule deer does to increase that population, increase Walk-In Programs within the Black Hills, and increase conservation easements or land purchased in the Black Hills to reduce development in wintering areas. (For example, near Custer, Hermosa, Spearfish to Rapid City).

**ID: 1831**

If we are to have a moderate sized mountain lion population, ALL! Hunters, hikers and other outdoors men should be allowed to carry a handgun regardless of what type of license they posses or even if they have none at all.

I like the idea of having big cats in SD, but our citizens must be allowed to fend off attacks towards themselves, livestock and pets. I don't think mountain lions are necessary to control game populations, that is why we have hunting licenses.

**ID: 1833**

I thought the amount of deer was excellent. There was a lot of mule deer does. I would like to see more bucks. We didn't even see very many spike bucks. The elk herd is looking great.

**ID: 1834**

I don't like the current set-up for hunting in the Black Hills. We used to be able to get a license every year so we could hunt with friends and family. Now, they get a license for one year and I get it the next. We never get one for the same year. It makes no difference what choice I put in for. The reason I started hunting out there was to hunt together.

**ID: 1836**

Whatever is being done for bigger bucks seems to be working. I've seen more bucks this year than all other years that I have hunted combined. I saw a lot of deer this season, doe and bucks both; the problem is they know where the safe areas are. 75% of the deer seen were in peoples yards and at the edge of towns as we drove to our chosen area to

hunt. It's been five years since I've hunted the Black Hills. I missed the drawing the past two years so it was nice to hunt there again. It's a different type of hunt than here.

**ID: 1841**

I am very concerned with the presence of mountain lions in the Black Hills and now on the prairie as they expand their territory. Even with the understanding that most mountain lions are elusive, this presence will eventually pose a threat to our safety as these populations increase.

**ID: 1845**

Take note that I have a ranch of 2,500 acres, and unfortunately the Black Hills surrounding my property have pushed an inordinate number of game on my property. Game, Fish & Parks Department must issue more licenses, or we will be overrun with deer. Aside from deer, the Black Hills also has seen an increase in elk herds! Licenses must be issued more liberally!

**ID: 1849**

I feel that there are too many does in the Black Hills. I would like to see a doe only season for a year or two. Just to reduce the chance of having too many does. Other states have doe control and it works well. Need to give the bucks a chance to get bigger and service more does.

People need to understand that we moved in on the animals, not them moving in on us. When you build in the Black Hills you are in their territory. Humans need to smarten up and understand the whole chain of life. Let's share with the animals.

**ID: 1853**

I think for the antlerless deer season, which is 9 days long should cover 2 weekends, unlike this season where it ran from Wednesday the 10th through Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. Not everyone has vacation time or can afford to take off work to hunt on weekdays.

**ID: 1856**

The preference point system for resident deer doesn't mean anything; you can have several years' preference and still not get a license. Cut back on non-resident licenses and give out more resident licenses.

**ID: 1858**

I think that a mountain lion season would be great. They are a dangerous animal that is growing in population throughout South Dakota I have seen footprints and heard a growl!

The Black Hills deer hunting was fun for me. I love going there every year. I think there is just the right amount of people in the area.

**ID: 1861**

Offer double doe tags in the drawings.

**ID: 1865**

I believe deer hunting has improved with the way you now limit getting a tag. More deer – bigger bucks.

**ID: 1871**

The antlerless deer season was a joke this year. I really wish that it was at least 2 weekends. I feel that in this short of a time a person is rushed to fill a tag which in turn is

dangerous and could end in more wounded deer left lying around to die. No time to chase them.

**ID: 1872**

Group hunting has really been hindered in the recent years due to the inconsistent license drawing. We as a group have hunted in the Black Hills for over 60 years through many generations. Now it is not possible to carry on the tradition as it once was. There are so many deer in the Black Hills and there seems to be more and more each year. Our group does not "road" hunt, but rather enjoys the walking, hiking and time with long time friends. We are not concerned about filling our tags every year, although we have had good luck in doing so in recent years. The most important thing about Black Hills deer season is to just get a license so we can go and spend time hunting. If a group applies for tags as "a group", could you issue tags to that group? Example: Issue all 3 point or better buck tags. Just a thought. Right now, there are so many deer in the Black Hills. Thank you.

**ID: 1883**

Thanks to all Game, Fish & Parks personnel for the excellent work you do and your continued interest in better game management.

**ID: 1885**

I would be very interested in seeing the Black Hills rifle season run the entire month of November. This year we couldn't go because we weren't able to coordinate with other hunters. It's too hard for us to go out there with other hunters because most farmers can't take off early. If you can't make it the entire month, then at least give us two weekends.

**ID: 1888**

Question #12 – I didn't go back and research the year I started going to the Black Hills with friends to deer hunt, but it has been close to 20 years. The last 2 years I did not draw a license, but chose to go anyway, with a camera instead of a gun. The time with friends and family along with the opportunity to again "experience" the Black Hills is just too good to miss. Getting a deer is a bonus! Going back to Question #1 – I hunted for 2 days, but spent most of 6 days in the Black Hills!

**ID: 1889**

I just like to get away from work and home, and enjoy hunting in the Black Hills with friends and family. In fact there is a couple friends that even if they don't get a tag they still come along just to be together and spend time away from our work. We always have a good time and enjoy the ride out there and back as well as the time hunting.

**ID: 1893**

Although our mountain lion population is increasing, I don't feel a season should be implemented at this time because it would be a population setback, even if you only hunted for one year. Try it in 5 to 10 years from now. Please don't allow any of them to be destroyed too soon.

Also, something should be done about needless killing of mountain lions when they wander into populated areas. They should be drugged and removed.

**ID: 1894**

Kill the mountain lions before they kill livestock or humans.

**ID: 1898**

It seems to me that the deer population has been growing in areas that I have hunted the last 6 years. I have observed many more mulies than previous years. There are more deer or they might be pushed into tighter groups because of the fires or loss of habitat.

I have always enjoyed hunting the Black Hills even through the tough years.

**ID: 1899**

Enjoyable year, very few hunters.

Saw elk droppings in all the areas that we were in. Also, saw more bucks every time we went out. The Black Hills are perfect.

**ID: 1906**

Saw no bucks while hunting, but saw several (>6) at the hotel after being harvested of good quality (4x4 & 5x4).

**ID: 1911**

There are too many wardens. The game wardens need to do their job and not be a pest. The game wardens need to be more friendly and kind. Sometimes I think the power goes to their head.

**ID: 1916**

Keep up the good work.

**ID: 1931**

I saw more big bucks this year. The last few years I have only shot does. I have never seen a lion in the Black Hills. Sorry this is late.

**ID: 1933**

I have seen bigger and better quality bucks during the last few seasons. Keep up the great work!

**ID: 1937**

Way too many deer in the Black Hills. Allow more licenses. Give everyone with a buck license an additional doe tag and encourage them to take a doe also.

**ID: 1938**

I waited to complete the survey because I thought there was a chance the season might be extended because there are so many deer. I did not get to hunt with my family as planned because I had to go out of state.

**ID: 1942**

I saw many deer and a couple big bucks, including a 7x8 and a 6x8 point whitetails, I did not shoot because there were too many people around and they were both lying on a skyline. The number of deer was great and although we did see puma tracks I was not concerned. They should put out more any-deer tags for the Nemo and Deerfield areas.

**ID: 1946**

Everybody that gets a buck tag should be able to draw a doe tag. Any deer tags hurt the status on bucks. They should be 2 or more points. Would like a copy of the complete report.

**ID: 1950**

Since limits on tags, the increase of deer population and size of deer has greatly increased. Great job people! Thanks.

**ID: 1952**

We hunted the Dalton Lake area and I was very disturbed as to all of the 4-wheeler trails ruining the beautiful Black Hills. I do own a 4-wheeler and I feel that there is a place for them, however, they do not belong off the trails, making new ones. I feel the people of South Dakota should have a vote on allowing this to happen. 4-wheel drive vehicles have no reason to be defacing the Black Hills by going off-road.

**ID: 1953**

I feel very strongly that a means of sportsmen harvesting mountain lions is very important. CO's harvesting even the problem cats is wasting a valuable resource. A list of sportsmen willing to pay \$500.00 or even \$1000.00 should be kept. When problem cats are identified the first name on the list is called for an opportunity to harvest the animal, identified by the CO's and in the company of CO's. It really annoys and irritates sportsmen, even those like me who have little desire to kill a cat, to see CO's harvest such a resource when the revenue proposed can be used for research or whatever GF&P decides.

**ID: 1960**

In regards to Question #12 (on page 2), I have been hunting deer in the Black Hills since 1969. A 25-year military career prevented me from hunting here from 1971 until 1995. It has always been one of my favorite areas to hunt. Thank you.

**ID: 1961**

We encountered several other deer hunters that were not wearing orange, or had inadequate orange clothing. With so many hunters in this area it made for a very dangerous situation. I would like to see better enforcement of this hunting law (mom's comment).

**ID: 1966**

I enjoy hunting with my dad and family. I am now 18 and will leave for school soon. I am very concerned about the mountain lions in the Black Hills. I used to go to Medicine Mt. Scout Ranch and mountain lions were there, but we never saw them. We heard one at night, but he never bothered us. I feel they are now getting too populated and are starting to be taken out of their safety zone, which goes to show why they're are being seen more often and getting more aggressive. Thank you for your time.

**ID: 1970**

For health reasons, I hunted only one day. I live in Lawrence County, so I see quite a few animals always.

**ID: 1972**

Mountain lions in populated areas should be captured and transported elsewhere. NOT SHOT.

**ID: 1975**

While we were hunting, we saw a lot of deer, but about 80-85% of the deer seemed to be yearlings. The majority of the bucks were spikes or 2x2's and I would rather shoot a large doe. We also saw a lot of elk and some really nice bulls were in the herds.



**ID: 1980**

Mountain lions should be treated just like coyotes. Shoot on sight!

**ID: 1982**

Deer hunting in the Black Hills doesn't compare to East River (for bucks), but is extremely beautiful.

**ID: 1983**

I think it is very important that the state establish a hunting season on mountain lions. I think the population is much greater than what the public is being told. I also think they will become more comfortable around humans over time and will pose a greater risk to our safety.

**ID: 1990**

I believe that the deer population is thriving in the Black Hills. GF&P has done a commendable job over the past years with the changes they have made, I have three concerns:

1. Whitetail doe populations are extreme. They are to the point in the northern hills where I would like to see, although I know it is impossible; no buck tags issued and just harvest some does.
2. I write this every year. GF&P always counters and disagrees, I still believe a two point restriction is too low. Real hunters know how many points a deer has before shot. It is the road hunters shooting the two point bucks. The bucks with the best genes are 2 points at 1½ years of age. These are bucks with out the wisdom to stay away from roads. A three point law would force hunters to know what they are shooting and they would be less likely to be able to shoot a young deer from the seat of their pickups. The Black Hills is scattered with roads (too many in my opinion). I think a stricter point law would force these hunters to hunt properly or not fill a tag.
3. I hear of more and more people telling me that they have 2 or 3 years preference for the Black Hills. I have been lucky in drawing every other year. Whether these people are truthful or not, I do not know. I also saw once that there were 7500 applications for 5000 tags. I don't know if these numbers are still consistent, but if so, couldn't GF&P guarantee preference holders a tag, and then draw out of the remainder? I think this being more than fair. This only concerns me because I live smack in the middle of the Black Hills. Black Hills hunting is my passion. My wife is lonely in November, It concerns me very much that I may have to sit out more than every other year when some get tags yearly. Again, GF&P are doing an excellent job! Thanks for letting me vent.

**ID: 1996**

I felt that there were too many small does and fawns. Friends who hunt out in the Black Hills year after year have told me the quality of the bucks have improved. Perhaps a person should have to shoot a doe, then check it in before they receive their any deer tag. I had not hunted in the Black Hills since 96 or 97, but I had a great time out there and will be going back for many years to come.

I live in Yankton County, and we have had many sightings of cats, both confirmed and unconfirmed. The warden out in the Black Hills told us that there are 4 cats in that area and to keep an eye out for them. I would love to hunt a cat, but if it was like trying to get

an elk tag, I feel I will be too old by the time I drew a tag. I strongly support a mountain lion season and I think we need one to put a little "fear" in the cats before a situation arises with a cat and a human confrontation.

**ID: 2000**

In my opinion – if people would just shoot some warning shots at all these lions being seen – they would probably react more like the coyotes. They would become more cautious and more evasive. They need to fear humans again, but I do feel they are on this earth for a reason, so should not be eliminated.

**ID: 2001**

The antlerless and special season in the Black Hills needs to be 2 days longer, so you have 2 weekends to hunt. We have a cabin in the Nemo area and my brother-in-law had a run-in with a mountain lion. Scared the bejeses out of him! Some type of season should be implemented to control the number of lions.

**ID: 2006**

I am very pleased that the GF&P finally implemented the 2 points rule for Black Hills bucks, it seems to be making a big difference in both numbers and quality of the bucks. Unfortunately, I noticed in most of the areas I go for work or recreation in the Black Hills, it seems like the doe population is getting out of control. I don't know if this from a lack of participation in doe harvesting or there is simply not enough tags issued.

**ID: 2007**

The reason I only got to hunt one day was I'm disabled Vet and I had a hip replaced November 5th, so the season was too short. I killed a whitetail doe in Fort Meade in October. I enjoy the meat and the hunt. I was shocked at such a short gun season. I'm from Arkansas. Different season all together. By the way Happy Holidays. I thank you for the two leftover doe tags

**ID: 2008**

I have lived in western South Dakota and have seen cougar sign several times, and two years I saw one in person. They are like most other animals, cautious of man. I have a much greater concern of being attacked and having damage caused by a pet dog in town while walking along a sidewalk, than a large cat like a cougar.

**ID: 2011**

I am a lifetime resident of South Dakota. I have hunted deer in the Black Hills since I was 13 years old. I believe that there are probably more deer in the foothills than there ever have been. I have observed mountain lion tracks and kills in the Tinton and Terry Peak areas for years, but have never seen or felt threatened by one.

**ID: 2014**

With non-residents buying up much of South Dakota, and South Dakota farmers and ranchers looking for big dollars from non-residents for deer, it's looking more and more likely that the average income residents are going to be locked-out from opportunities to hunt prairie deer. I disagree most vehemently with the under-handed ruse trying to prevent conservation officers from entering private land without prior permission. If this is approved, hunting as we know it will change forever in favor of big money non-residents, and the Walk-In Area Program will all but die. I count on prairie deer season for opportunities to take meat, and an opportunity to take a decent buck. But with the trend in landowners wooing high dollar non-residents, my Black Hills deer tag is more important to me. I am willing to sacrifice a year or two of not getting a buck tag to increase my odds

at taking a nice buck when I do get a tag. Do more to promote landowners reserving their land for Walk-In Areas, or use some funds to buy more land for public hunting before all the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa rich boys take over hunting in South Dakota. Increase non-resident fees for big game licenses; not residents. South Dakota has the cheapest non-resident fees and probably the most expensive resident fees in the U.S. Increasing non-resident fees will not change the number of hunters wanting to hunt in South Dakota, but it will put more \$\$ into the same funds, which could be used for more Walk-In Areas. Do more for the average income resident hunter. It is the right thing to do. Don't allow South Dakota hunting to become a past time for the well-to-do.

**ID: 2015**

There should be a separate archery antlerless deer tag available in the Black Hills during the archery season.

**ID: 2016**

Shorten season, last 3 weeks of Nov. for the season.

**ID: 2029**

I am slightly dissatisfied with not being able to draw a Black Hills buck tag. I only get one about every 2 years even though I live here within the Black Hills. I think the lottery should favor residents who live in or adjacent to the Black Hills. This is our primary hunting area. I also think the amount of Black Hills tags could be increased by at least 500 tags. Also, the general 10 day rifle season should run the first 10 days of December; not during West River deer season.

**ID: 2031**

I feel the number of buck licenses available for the Black Hills is too low.

**ID: 2037**

Walked quite a few ridges and did not see any antlered bucks.

**ID: 2039**

I would like to see your buck-only tag, if you do not harvest a buck, be able to harvest a doe, only during the last weekend of the Black Hills deer season. There are a lot of whitetail does in the Black Hills.

**ID: 2042**

I had a great hunt this year. Weather was nice – not many hunters. Lots of does.

**ID: 2043**

My antlerless tag coincided to closely with my prairie tags for me to take advantage of them. I wish you could do something about that. We are a bit over populated with deer right now.

I think the buck deer program has worked. I have seen a lot of beautiful bucks.

**ID: 2058**

I don't bow hunt, but my husband and son do. I think it is very dangerous that they cannot carry a handgun in light of the growing numbers of mountain lions in the Black Hills. We have discovered in certain areas where we drive on non-posted roads when we get to the other end of the road, that the road is posted and blocked. If posted and blocked off on one end, why not both? ATV's should be licensed if operated on any road,

so violations of using roads, trails, etc. where marked for “no wheeled” vehicles can be reported by private citizens.

**ID: 2059**

I have very limited knowledge about mountain lions. I believe if one consistently is seen near populated areas that cat should be removed or killed in order to protect children and possibly adults.

**ID: 2070**

I was very happy with my experience. I filled my tag in the first hour of the hunt. Keep the lottery the way it is!

**ID: 2076**

Sorry I did not send my doe's teeth in before I got a chance to butcher her. Someone or something took the head off of my porch!

I grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania with a lot of deer and hardwoods, and I'm not used to pine forests and two types of deer. I will have to adapt next year, but look forward to hunting. I really do not like the “lottery system”, as I feel if you are a resident you should be entitled to at least one tag of your choice.

**ID: 2080**

I was disappointed that I drew an antlerless tag, but I guess everyone has to take turns. I also know the doe population needs to be managed and it is fine eating.

**ID: 2085**

While hunting in the Black Hills I had a couple who were out for a drive and I guess they didn't like hunters because they kept honking the horn in the area I was hunting. Thankfully GF&P person stopped them and questioned them. I did get my deer 20 minutes later though. It would be nice to have those type of people out of the Black Hills while hunting season is going on.

**ID: 2087**

Mountain lions deserve the right to roam free, to a point. They are a large part of the beauty of the Black Hills.

**ID: 2089**

In almost 40 years of hunting in the Black Hills, I have not yet seen a mountain lion. The deeper we move into their territory, the easier it is for them to get junk food from garbage cans and the greater chance of encounters. We need to accept the encounters and take precautions.

**ID: 2095**

Ever since you got rid of “over-the-counter” tags, buck quality has improved by leaps and bounds. The low number of deer seen this year for us was that we never hunted the area before. In the area we hunted, it was some of the best hunting areas I have EVER seen. I think it was hunted hard earlier in the season. In 2005 I better draw a BIG buck tag.

**ID: 2096**

Lots of deer in Unit 403. Most ever seen in that area.

**ID: 2099**

Question #24 – If we establish a mountain lion season, it must be designed to take the cats that move into areas where the potential for negative interaction with humans is high. Have a “calling tree”: a person with a cat license should be called after a “problem” lion is seen. He must have an agreement with a mountain lion hunter who has dogs. He then immediately goes to the site of the lion sighting and tracks the lion with the dogs. I do not support a mountain lion season in the high Black Hills where mountain lion behavior is natural and there is very little chance for human encounters!

**ID: 2113**

I would like to see more time for the any-deer season in the Black Hills.

**ID: 2117**

I would like to see the Black Hills any-deer run from November 1st to the 10th of November.

**ID: 2118**

We enjoyed a successful Black Hills deer season, saw many deer and loved the beauty of the Black Hills. We saw no mountain lion sign during our hunt, but have seen many signs during our other activities in the Black Hills and Badlands.

**ID: 2126**

I appreciate the amount of public land that can be hunted in the Black Hills. The quality of west river deer has deteriorated immensely the past 5 to 10 years. The Walk-In Areas are of poor quality and not worth hunting.

**ID: 2127**

My main concern with the deer in the Black Hills is overpopulation. When I drive on the road near residences and in town (Custer, Hot Springs, etc.), I see deer in the middle of the day. My concern is CWD and the concentrations on animals.

**ID: 2134**

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to observe a family of 4 mountain lions. Having a cow call I was able to get the attention of one of the adults. I thought these animals were very interesting to observe and appreciate being able to see such an animal in the Black Hills. Human and cat confrontations will be more frequent as the Black Hills get more developed. Too many people have negative reactions to the cats through uneducated ideas and fear of another animal sharing their food chain.

**ID: 2135**

Subject: mountain lions:

- Should be hunted.
- Should be cut down to two-thirds at least.

We’ve had lions since I was a small boy, but they just passed through.

**ID: 2140**

The most deer seen and the biggest bucks were in subdivisions outside of Custer.

**ID: 2148**

The proportion of bucks to does is low. There are enough bucks to service the does, but they are young and of moderate quality.

**ID: 2155**

I live in an area where mountain lions have caused a nuisance and fear in residential areas. I have no desire to eliminate the animal. I do wish the mountain lion to be kept away from populated areas.

Also, as I stated earlier, I believe that landowners should have the unlimited right to decide whether a mountain lion exists on their property, or be killed if deemed necessary.

**ID: 2160**

I would like to see three units for archery, Black Hills, West River and East River. You should be allowed two tags, one in each unit.

**ID: 2162**

You should be allowed to pay cash for leftover tags, instead of using credit or debit cards, but I do like the fact it isn't a lottery.

If you think you have to raise the combo licenses you need to do more stocking and repairs to the ramps. Deerfield boat ramps are in poor shape. Maybe if people saw some improvements, they wouldn't be so upset about fees going up. Right now the way things are is fees go up and the people get nothing in return.

There should be three seasons for turkeys or at least doubles in the fall.

**ID: 2165**

I know a number of people who have had a buck tag in the Black Hills every year since restricted tags, yet there were two consecutive years I did not have a tag and at best I haven't had a tag except every other year. I live here! I pay taxes here – much higher than Minnehaha County! I don't live in pheasant country and can't afford trespass fees to hunt them. Black Hills residents should have a "home" county preference.

**ID: 2168**

Some questions seem silly to me. I made notes on those questions.

**ID: 2176**

People move into the forest, thus more lion sightings. No one has come into contact, only a couple pets. If people live in the wild they must accept that their pets must be safe guarded. Lions should suffer for human mistakes, especially the ones moving into their domain.

Just like the beaver years ago that were trapped and hunted out of the Black Hills streams. Until the recent years, the Forest Service realized the effect of the ecosystem. Recently stocking beaver.

My wife and I ride horses and pack. I have seen more damage done by 4-wheelers and ATV's. They don't stay on maintained roads. I have seen overgrazed land. Cattle should have been pulled out months before. Turning springs and creeks into mud bogs. This message is for the U. S. National Forest Service.

**ID: 2181**

I am grateful for the opportunity to hunt Black Hills deer on or near my own property, the primary purpose being to have fresh deer meat of good quality. I have two tanned deer hides and have given one away. Deer season is about the only time of year I get up at

5:00 A.M. to get out and enjoy the beauty of Gods given nature on earth and in the sky. It does hurt to see so many dead deer along our highways. They are a beautiful animal

**ID: 2188**

I would like to see resident tag fees decrease and non-resident tags increase. Also, increase the number of available tags for residents and decrease for non-residents. We choose to live in South Dakota for many reasons including hunting opportunities, despite the low wages, etc. The least the State could do is help out the residents. Non-residents can afford to hunt in South Dakota - let them pay for it.

If a mountain lion season were made available, offer the season to South Dakota, especially Black Hills residents for several years before opening it up to non-residents. We have to deal with the lions and learn to live with them; we should have the privilege of hunting them if their numbers justify a season.

**ID: 2189**

I had fun hunting for Black Hills deer this season.

**ID: 2190**

I did not shoot a deer this year because I took my nephew, who has never hunted in the Black Hills before, so we were side by side the entire trip. He shot a very nice 5x5 whitetail. The experience is one he will never forget and I was happy to be a part of it.

Further more, since GF&P went to a management program in the Black Hills the number and quality of bucks just keeps getting better, which makes the Black Hills hunting experience hard to beat. I look forward to taking my own kids there and sharing it with them. Keep up the good work!

**ID: 2194**

If you guys need help with anything please let me know.

**ID: 2200**

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

**ID: 2201**

I feel having to draw for a license in the Black Hills is the worst thing GF&P ever thought up. You worry about deer numbers, but yet you can't get a license. I know of at least 20 to 25 people who hunt the Black Hills every year. They haven't been able to hunt because of your drawing. The only good thing you have done is make the buck size limit 2 points or better. The only people who should have to put in for the drawing is the non-residents. The residents of SD should be able to buy a license over-the-counter in the Black Hills or anywhere else for that matter.

As far as mountain lions in the state, I don't feel GF&P has any idea how to control them. They are nothing more than a dangerous threat to livestock and the people of the state. When a lion will come into the city limits or into a fenced house yard in the country and are killing livestock, you have a problem. You will be liable for that cat when it gets into a campground and kills a child at play or an adult. It will happen it's just a matter of time.

**ID: 2207**

I feel mountain lions should be killed only if a threat to humans by demonstrating dangerous behavior, or by killing livestock.

I harvested my whitetail doe on my land due to the fact we have several living here and they need thinning out.

**ID: 2211**

There are too many doe in the Black Hills. I have been out both elk and deer hunting and the ratio of bucks to does is way out of whack. There needs to be a greater opportunity for hunters to harvest does. I would suggest an additional Black Hills specific archery doe tag or a Black Hills black powder doe season. The deer population is out of control. I have exclusively harvested does in the Black Hills with both my archery and rifle tags in the past 3 years. I would encourage the GF&P to issue more doe permits.

I have seen 2 mountain lions in the past year and have seen tracks two other times last winter. Mountain lions are a natural part of the Black Hills and do not pose a threat to people or the wildlife in general. I would disagree with a general hunting season on lions, although a limited season to deal with problem lions may be in order.

**ID: 2212**

I think the state should break the buck season in half. One that runs the first half and one that runs the second half, or maybe a later season that runs in Dec., so areas hunted aren't crowded. I also think there should be a 3-point minimum on Black Hills bucks.

**ID: 2313**

Buck to doe ratio appears very low. However, not knowing the area very well may have given me this opinion. We observed only 2 whitetail bucks during the week we hunted. The whitetails appeared very nervous and the mule deer were curious.

**ID: 2214**

Mountain lions would be less of a threat to humans if they were hunted. By not hunting them they lose their natural fear of humans. To protect game their numbers should be controlled. This is also true of wolves. There is too many cities bred sentimentalism around these two animals.

We have both wolves and mountain lions in the area where I live in WI near my home. I have seen mountain lions in the Black Hills on 4 occasions. Once at Belle Fourche on Highway 212.

**ID: 2215**

Hi Larry,

I rated my Black Hills experience very high, but probably because I hunted November 3rd and 4th (Tues. and Wed). Pressure was very low, but vehicle tracks indicated quite a bit of presence on Monday. I enjoyed the lack of pressure Tues. and Wed. I'm a bit surprised there aren't more gated roads to reduce "road hunting" to give "foot hunters" more space to "get away".

I did shoot my first mule deer buck and that was a big accomplishment for me. I passed on 4 whitetails before shooting the mulie, two of those would have been 16 inches wide and 4 pointers. The biggest whitetails I saw after shooting the mulie would have been in the 17 to 18 inch wide range and with heavier racks.

The Black Hills seems to have an abundance, maybe over abundance of whitetail does. Would you consider creating a buck plus a doe license that would allow a hunter to shoot a buck and a whitetail doe or fawn? Gathering meat is an important part of the hunt for



me and I would have shot a doe, but not if it would have eliminated my opportunity to shoot a buck.

**ID: 2216**

I was the previous South Dakota resident that wrote several paragraphs in the comment section about the mountain lion population 2 or 3 years ago. Mountain lions were rare in my youth and deer licenses were plentiful. Now, lions are plentiful and non-resident licenses are rare. "My estimate" is that 15,000 deer are consumed annually by the lion population.

Start the lion season before some kid gets chewed up in Rapid, Two Bit Gulch, Crow Peak hiking trail, and Spearfish Canyon, etc. Quit worrying about the whiner and complainers that say it is not right to hunt lions . . . should have started 3 to 5 years before the prairie got population by the ousted young toms.

**ID: 2217**

Of course our party would like a tag every year. It was 3 years for this tag. Every other year would be great, even if the price was raised a little. Thank you.

**ID: 2218**

Glad to be able to offer my opinion, I think the mountain lion issue is very important, although I did not see one, I did see tracks of one in Sled Canyon, my cousin who is a SD resident has seen 4 lions in the past 2 years. That is a lot for one person to see; I definitely would encourage the state of SD to open a season on lions and allow the use of dogs. Lions are very hard on deer and they should be controlled. It is just a matter of time until they attack a human.

The deer in the area I hunt appear to be very healthy and the numbers are up compared to 2 to 4 years ago. It was encouraging to see so many mule deer. The trophy quality of bucks just does not seem to be in our area where we hunt, however, we have seen a few over the years. I guess our wish is to see the over-the-counter tags again and most definitely leave the 2-point or better restriction on. The biggest problem with the old over-the-counter tags was people shooting spikes. I think you could up the number of tags for non-residents hunters, make 20% of them 4-point or better tags, not very many will fill the tags and so tags won't be a big demand item for the average hunter. Just my thoughts – Love to hunt the Black Hills!

Hope you open the elk season to non-residents on a limited basis. There are lots of elk. Thanks.

**ID: 2221**

Would still like to be able to buy buck-only tags across the counter. Seems like each year the majority of our group has not tags.

**ID: 2222**

This was my third year (time) hunting in the Black Hills, and I believe the way you are handling the deer herd is working. Every year I see more (better) bucks, but I still think you have too big of a doe population.

**ID: 2223**

Overall I am very satisfied with this years hunt. I have never seen the quality or quantity of bucks ever, that I saw this year in the Black Hills. I think the changes that you have made have been the best possible for the deer. Before this year I rarely saw anything

bigger than a 2x2. This year we rarely saw anything smaller than a 4x4. Although not getting a tag is a drag, I realize that it is a fact of hunting and preserving the deer population. So it is something that I think most respectable hunters understand. So out of ten years of hunting in the Black Hills this year has been the most enjoyable. Keep up the good work and hopefully I will be back next year. Please send me a copy of the report.

**ID: 2225**

I went hunting south of Hill City in the Jasper Burn area. There does not seem to be a lot of water in that area. I think that small damns would provide more water for wildlife. There are not a lot of streams or creeks in this area, so I think some man made damns would help with the water. Thanks for your time.

**ID: 2230**

I disagree with the lottery system. A lot of us hunters just like to hunt the land and don't care if they get a deer. I have hunted the Black Hills for 21 years and don't have that many years left to miss years because of the lottery system. I am sure the weather of the Black Hills has more impact than the hunters.

**ID: 2232**

Sir: I was not able to hunt this year because timing of my farming operation. Thank you.

**ID: 2234**

Would like to see more licenses for out-of-state hunters. Some type of party license so relatives from out of state can get together to hunt deer. Before the draw system six of us from out of state used to hunt together.

**ID: 2240**

I lived in the Black Hills for 18 years and have family their; born in Hill City. First hunting license at age 11.

You've done a great job with the elk. Hope I'll get a chance to hunt them one day. Keep up the good work.

**ID: 2241**

I like your state to hunt in. Besides it's the best pheasant hunting in NO. America, it's a beautiful state.

**ID: 2242**

Previous to 2004 we always camped in the Black Hills. It was always nice to walk out from camp to hunt in the morning. We did this from 1984 to 2003 except for 3 years we went to Wyoming. We came every year until the lottery was installed and we were not selected. I have one 8 point trophy head mounted in my basement. I had one 10 point dead to rights and didn't pull the trigger because I couldn't see the head. He ran out of cover and another one of our party shot it. I saw the biggest deer of my life materialized out of a snow storm at about 10 ft. I couldn't even get a shot, the weather was too bad. This is the buck or one like him that keeps bring me back to the Black Hills. I don't have too many years left to look for him. Every year I do get selected in the lottery is one less year. This year we stayed at the Golden Spike in Hill City and drove to our hunting areas. Thank you.

**ID: 2243**

Seeing 100 deer in five days may seem substantial, but it was because I spent 90% of my time walking. This type of hunting allows more sightings, but fewer opportunities to shoot. For that amount of walking, I should have seen more deer. Coyotes were thick by out hunting site and seen chasing deer more than normal.

**ID: 2245**

I hunted Nov. 1-6, next time I will try hunting Nov. 15. I saw about 40% mule deer. There was a lot of fawns, they were very small ones (late ones). I hunted the burn areas, roads 283, 296, and 668. I found the larger mule bucks in heavy timber. It was hard hunting and I couldn't get a shot off. I think that mountain lions should be kept at a safe level for deer, humans, and ranchers. I think that you should keep buck deer at 2+ points. I will try hunting in the Black Hills again, when I receive a tag. I saw no sick deer in these areas; looked very good (fat).

P.S. I saw a lot of elk in this area. Looked very healthy. Saw 2 7X6 bulls, big ones! Thank you.

**ID: 2246**

I would apply for doe tags if they were cheaper. \$155.00 for a doe? I don't think so.

**ID: 2251**

I have hunted deer in Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Ohio, and Michigan. This was the best do-it-yourself hunt that I've been on. Keep up the good work. I'm hoping to be able to hunt the Black Hills area again soon.

**ID: 2252**

Compared to Wisconsin, South Dakota has a much nicer deer hunt. Our DNR has panicked over CWD and are trying to eradicate our deer herd in some areas. They are out of their minds as to our deer population estimates (you have a lot more deer). Hunting pressure is terrible in this state, which brings out the worst in people. I had a great time in South Dakota and I will be back.

**ID: 2253**

This is the most enjoyable hunt my sons and I have. It is a quality, affordable hunt. This is the only week we are able to spend entirely together. My third son is now twelve and will join us. I only wish we could draw a tag each year. Thank you very much for the privilege to participate.

**ID: 2254**

South Dakota must manage its predators. If the lion is not managed, you will have the same problems we face in Wyoming, remember that the wolf is just across your border and it's coming to South Dakota in just a matter of time, so be prepared for this onslaught. Have the South Dakota people conditioned to hunting with quotas, but start a season on them. Thank you.

**ID: 2256**

Our group is from Wisconsin and we very much enjoy our trips to the Black Hills. Wish we could come every year like we used to. We always stay in Custer. The local warden checked our deer and others while we were staying at the "Super 8" Motel. We had a very lengthy and enjoyable conversation with him about hunting in the Black Hills. He had a lot of knowledge and information and we gained some valuable insight.

**ID: 2260**

Had a great time.

**ID: 2261**

In relation to question 17-D, my standards on buck size change daily as I near the end of my hunt.

**ID: 2272**

Thank you for the opportunity to go hunting in SD with my dad and brother. The only thing I think would have made our trip better would be if you guys would update your maps and numbers on the back roads. Get an updated or detailed map. We saw a huge amount of does on our trip, so may be able to shoot 1 buck and 1 doe or just 2 does.

**ID: 2273**

In two hunting trips, I have each time bagged a "3" point buck. I have seen some deer, but NOT a large number. Trophy bucks are fine, but not my main goal in the hunt. I enjoy the venison the most. Work on CWD testing more or continue the opportunity for us to have our deer tested. Thank you.

**ID: 2276**

My hunting partner and I have hunted in the Spearfish area for the last 18 years. We're both seasoned deer hunters, having hunted whitetail in many states for about 50 years. We're very careful and discriminating regarding the taking of only large-racked whitetail bucks.

The owners of the property we hunt on are wonderful and close friends, almost like an extended family. Over the last few years we've noted less hunting pressure, larger-racked bucks and too many does. Although we see plenty of deer, the amount of deer we saw this year seemed less than the amount seen during the past few years.

Regarding mountain lions; the owners of the land where we hunt experienced four sightings this year. We did not see any.

**ID: 2279**

I feel the selection process for hunting licenses should be changed in order to be more fair and less discriminating. The people who have the most preference points should be selected before someone without points. With the current system, a person may never be drawn for a tag no matter how many preference points they may have. Thank you.

**ID: 2282**

I think the hunting has greatly improved since the lottery system was started. Not so crowded with other hunters. More quality bucks seen and harvested.

**ID: 2289**

I would like to be able to hold preference points for a year. So I could hunt with friends at the same time. If we miss putting in for a license we can't get back into the same yearly rotation with our friends.

**ID: 2292**

Should give a doe tag with the buck tag. You can go many years waiting for a big buck unless you live there I suppose

**ID: 2293**

I think the mule deer population would be better if people would not road hunt. Too many people shooting deer road hunting, not letting the smaller bucks go. I talked to the locals, which they said poaching deer from vehicles is a big problem. I like the no case law, but don't think there should be shells in the magazine, not just the chamber. Too easy for people to road hunt. Let them get out of the vehicle and hunt.

**ID: 2294**

I liked tracking the deer, but think you should get rid of the cut down trees in the Black Hills. God what a fire hazard, but otherwise the hills are wonderful and beautiful. My dad loves your state, hills and deer. Thank you for letting me have this experience, I thoroughly enjoyed coming. Thank you again.

**ID: 2296**

Though I like the increase in bucks (maybe due to fire) and fewer hunters, I miss being able to hunt in the Black Hills every year. I would support offering more licenses even if it meant meeting more hunters and seeing fewer bucks.

**ID: 2300**

Elk Hunting. I was born and raised in South Dakota, but now reside in Iowa. I would be very interested in non-resident elk hunting opportunities in South Dakota. Please consider a "Preference Draw" season for specific units (cow, bull or any). Thanks

**ID: 2303**

I greatly enjoyed my Black Hills hunting experience! The go anywhere hunting, without restrictions, was very much enjoyed. I did have a couple of concerns though. First, the number of road hunters generally disgusted me. On more than one occasion, me or friends I was hunting with, kicked up deer only to be shot at by so-called hunters in their vehicles on the roads. A "gun enclosed in a carry case" law would go along way towards curbing this. These animals deserve more respect than this. Secondly, the number of tags is a concern. Friends I hunted with have been hunting the Black Hills since 1989 and have usually been guaranteed a tag every two years, but this year some people from the area I live in will have two preference points next year. I think issuing more tags and increasing the two-point law to maybe three or four points would be acceptable for myself and my hunting friends. Changing the two-point law would also limit the road hunters.

**ID: 2310**

I would like to see antlerless only tags offered in addition to buck tags. These should be valid for entire season. The does need thinning both in overall numbers and to improve buck to doe ratio.

**ID: 2311**

The buck hunting in SD has greatly improved. I wish a "trophy" tag could be issued so I could hunt there every year. Maybe a 5 point on one side minimum could be designated for an over-the-counter tag opportunity. It would give revenue to business and would be a low impact hunt. (less tags would be filled compared to the standard tag and most trophy hunters have better hunting ethics).

**ID: 2317**

If I could only change one thing, it would be the rules applying to party hunting. If someone is lucky enough to fill their tag early in the week, it would be nice to have the opportunity to harvest a larger buck. My crew has a 9 minimum size anyway until the last

two days of hunting. Other than that, hunting in the Black Hills is something we all look forward to every time we get the chance!

**ID: 2318**

My belief is "opportunity to hunt" out weights "taking a trophy buck". Requiring hunters to shoot 4x4 or bigger bucks allows for trophy hunting and trophy bucks. Splitting the month long season into four week hunts allows for reduced hunter density. Both these ideas would allow for everyone to hunt. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my thoughts.

**ID: 2319**

I would like to see a group application that would allow resident and non-resident hunters to apply together. This would allow our family members to continue a tradition of hunting together. Currently we seem to be on opposite years of drawing a tag. Please consider. The 2 points or better seems to be working, no complaints. Any chance of implementing an out-of-state elk hunt for out-of-state hunters? Could a buck and doe tag be implemented? Without negatively impacting your deer herd management plan.

**ID: 2321**

I had a very enjoyable hunt. Thank you.

**ID: 2323**

My friends have been singing SD praises for years. Finally, I was blessed with the opportunity to join in! I must say the pristine beauty of the Black Hills left a lasting impression that won't be forgotten. I've been told by my experienced friends, that a major reduction of hunters has occurred. This is a result of the drawing. I trust that with proper management and time that greater quality bucks will surface. For now, I remain grateful for my experience.

**ID: 2327**

I personally support the GF&P decision for all residents and non-residents to draw for a license. I am starting to see the quality of larger and trophy class bucks increase. One of my greatest desires in life is to shoot just one trophy whitetail or mule deer buck. I was very fortunate to grow up in the Black Hills in Lead, SD. The hunting experience I had growing up was "priceless" and is one of the reasons I keep "longing" for the Black Hills.

**ID: 2328**

I was a resident of SD for 50 years. I have hunted the Black Hills almost every year. Enjoy it very much. Would like to be able to hunt every year!! Thanks!

**ID: 2330**

I apply for a non-resident license each year. Recently, I have only gotten a license every other year. There seems to be plenty of deer in the Black Hills and I would hunt every year. If the reasoning is to build more quality deer in the Black Hills, I am in favor of this.

**ID: 2331**

I hunted the West River area of your state 4 years ago and saw five times the game that I seen in the Black Hills. I saw lots of elk, but very few mule deer. Will you ever open your state to non-resident elk hunters?

**ID: 2332**

I enjoyed hunting with my son in SD. Saw 100's of deer on private land. The times of the season we hunted was hard to get up on the deer to see if it was a buck or doe. I hunted

last year in Harding County later in the season. I enjoyed it very much. If I hunt there again I will hunt in Harding Co. While there I shot a nice 4 point. My main reason for hunting in SD was to be with my family. We have plenty of deer here in Idaho.

**ID: 2334**

I support the two point or better for bucks and believe it has improved the number and quality of bucks. I enjoy the Black Hills hunt. I grew up in the Black Hills and returned for many consecutive years until the lottery system was installed. Where as I enjoy the hunt seeing very few hunters, I don't believe hunting pressure controls the deer herd.

Maybe they are selfish motives, but I would recommend increasing the number of available resident and non-resident permits allowed. There is substantial revenue to the Black Hills area and the GF&P Department that can support the residents and game programs by this approach.

**ID: 2336**

Thank you for running a first rate application, draw and follow up on deer hunting. I am very thankful for the opportunity to build up points and count on a hunt about every other year with my brother and friends in the Black Hills and prairie. Keep up the good work!

**ID: 2337**

I have hunted Black Hills deer for a number of years. I have been successful some years, and some years not. I have also gone with a friend who is a resident of SD while he hunted (with a license) I walked along side of him (without a license and also without any sort of arm, firearm, bow or whatever) and had the best of times. I've hunted the big horns (Wyoming) and the Medicine Bow (Wyoming) and I like the Black Hills the best. Thank You!

**ID: 2338**

Should increase points to 3x3 or larger.

**ID: 2339**

Non-resident license prices are too HIGH! I know of other non-residents that would like to hunt in South Dakota, but they won't do so unless the price is less.

**ID: 2342**

I enjoyed hunting in your state and the people I met were very friendly.

**ID: 2343**

I'd like to see SD allow hunters to carry preference points over for more than one year. For example, if I fail to draw a license next year and get a preference point I'd like more than more than just the next year to use it. If circumstances don't allow me to hunt SD that very next year then I have to wait two more years. One year to get another point and then another year to draw based on that point. At least that's been my experience since you started the total drawing process. So please allow us to carry our preference points over at least one year. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

**ID: 2345**

1. Too many deer live and feed along highways and near towns and are not harvested, causing traffic accidents and injured, suffering animals. A controlled harvest along highways MUST BE DONE.
2. People like me, who own property and pay taxes in the Black Hills (Custer) should not be treated as and have to pay the rates of non-residents.

None of my hunting friends and relatives who live in the Black Hills got a license this year, so I was unable to hunt with them, and none of us got licenses last year, so we have been unable to hunt together for two years. Despite the fact that I counted 50 deer in a 3-mile stretch this summer.

A special hunt in October or December (strictly controlled) for Black Hills residents only, along the main highways would reduce the deer population, reduce highway accidents, and reduce mountain lions along the highways. Everyone wins including the deer.

**ID: 2353**

Need more roads open so deeper wood access is possible. There are a lot of big deer to be harvested back in the deeper woods, where most roads will not allow access.

**ID: 2359**

If possible to enforce, ban road hunting.

**ID: 2362**

2004 was an excellent year to hunt the Black Hills. Deer population appears to be increasing and healthy. Wild turkey populations appear to be rapidly growing. Mulies and elk are doing well. Dropping the price of antlerless non-resident permits was a good idea. We enjoy South Dakota hunting experiences, but more importantly from an economic stand point; by allowing us to fill our tags more cheaply, we spent 10-15 times that in support of the local economy through food, lodging, and travel. Looking forward to 2005 season. Lots of game – lots of photos.

**ID: 2364**

My deer hunting in South Dakota is a 50-year old family tradition. I make the trip whether I have a tag or not. Should I be concerned of the mountain lions if all I carry in the woods is a camera? Is it legal for me to carry a side arm for protection?

**ID: 2366**

Need more over-the-counter (non-lottery) opportunities for deer hunters.

**ID: 2367**

I love hunting in the Black Hills of South Dakota. I got my first whitetail doe the first 5 minutes of the opening day. My grandpa and I come every year we get a tag. Keep the tags coming. Thank you.

**ID: 2376**

1. Make the antlerless deer tag dates of hunting match the buck only November 1st – 30th. I found I could not hunt during Thanksgiving due to the silly 10th – 19th days to hunt.
2. Many of us long time residents, have been non-residents paying high fees only to see the Mountain lion population explode out of control and wipe out many of the deer. This is terrible considering we supported a drawing system to grow more bucks and fewer hunters only to be eaten by lions.

Out of 4 members in our family who sent into the drawing, not one person was able to get a first choice buck-only tag. We went to Colorado instead. We will likely go to Colorado and Wyoming again next year. We can't depend on the South Dakota drawing and game due to mountain lions.



**ID: 2377**

I had considered buying a handgun to use as a sidearm (not concealed) because of the threat of mountain lions and possible attack. I did contact the GF&P in Pierre. They gave me the run around and finally told me to call the Black Hills GF&P office. I ran out of time to do so. So I didn't carry a side arm. Had I been able to do so I would have felt more at ease. If attacked the first thing a mountain lion would do is jump on me. Likely I'd drop my rifle and have no way to defend myself. Allowing a sidearm (not concealed) might be something to consider for hunter safety as the lion population increases.

**ID: 2378**

I hunted deer in the Black Hills during the late 1970's and early 1980's. It amazes me how many more deer there are now compared to then.

**ID: 2379**

I saw the least amount of hunters in the woods that I ever have in 13 years of Black Hills hunting. I saw only one other hunter in the woods in seven days and two different areas.

**ID: 2380**

I started hunting the Black Hills with my dad when I was 12 years old! We could only hunt for bucks being a non-resident. That was some of the best times I've ever had hunting. It is hard to explain to my son (13 years old) that he will probably only be able to hunt every 3rd year because of the lottery system and we are non-residents. If you could increase the chances of getting a non-resident license (even going back to bucks only), I would strongly agree (longtime Black Hills deer hunter)! Thank you.

**ID: 2383**

It's great to have some mountain lions in the Black Hills! However, the population seems to have reached a level where some sort of management program is required that takes ranching, hunting and public safety into consideration. Other Western states seemed to have successfully managed their lions through carefully regulated hunting. That may be the thing to do in Western South Dakota as well. Being involved in this survey is much appreciated. Good luck!

**ID: 2386**

I have hunted in 14 states, four of them in the west. I found both my South Dakota antelope and Black Hills deer hunts to be outstandingly superior to all other states! I hope to hunt in SD again. I also note that residents may draw as many as 350 deer tags while others may draw none. This is strange to me. Shouldn't resident tags be evenly distributed? Thanks.

**ID: 2388**

Consider another class for non-resident landowners. Non-residents who pay property tax could receive an advantage over non-residents.

**ID: 9005**

I'm from Kansas where you can get more than one deer tag in a year. There are a lot of deer up in the Black Hills and I would like to see more than one tag a year or twice a year season. Make it easy to get a tag, like have Scheels sell them or hunting places (gun shops). You lottery tag thing is really not the way to go. I think every person that puts in for a tag should get one with an option to get two tags.

**2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey****Appendix C**

*Larry M. Gigliotti (comments typed by Debra K. Burtts)*

**ID: 9006**

This is the third year that my two oldest sons and I have hunted the Black Hills. It is the only week in a year we really spend significant time together. This is truly a quality hunt with adequate deer, trophy possibility, plenty of land to hunt, and low pressure. We enjoy the scenery and other wildlife. On a positive this year, moisture seems to be back and deer were more scattered. Bucks were harder to find – starting to hunt 11/1. The rut was just barely evident, if at all. Thanks very much for our opportunity to hunt in South Dakota.

**ID: 9007**

I made out his report a couple moons ago. Create a disease to kill off the mountain lions, and preserve the Black Hills for deer and elk.

**ID Numbering Plan for 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunting Survey:**

Unit & Type	Residents		Non-Residents	
	Sample Size	ID Range	Sample Size	ID Range
400A-52	1,650	1 – 1650	132	2213 – 2344
401A-01	33	1651 – 1683	3	2345 – 2347
401A-06	132	1684 – 1815	11	2348 – 2358
402A-01	33	1816 – 1848	3	2359 – 2361
402A-06	99	1849 – 1947	8	2362 – 2369
403A-01	33	1948 – 1980	3	2370 – 2372
403A-06	116	1981 – 2096	9	2373 – 2381
404A-01	33	2097 – 2129	3	2382 – 2384
404A-06	83	2130 – 2212	7	2385 – 2391
Totals	2,212	1 – 2212	179	2213 – 2391

**Total Sample Size = 2,391**

ID Numbers 9005 - 9007 are hunters that removed their ID numbers from their survey questionnaire.

**Appendix D.** Comments received by e-mail from hunters in the 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey (names have been removed from these comments).

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The new management of the black hills deer is really working. Before this limited draw it was very challenging to get a kid, a deer. The bucks were wilder and fewer. Now we see nice bucks every day. Last year I took a 14 year old out and he got a big 6x7, I got a 21 inch 5x5 in the same day. I hope it doesn't go back to selling more buck license as horn size is improving dramatically and hunting is so good when we get a license. One thing that is hurting our odds for drawing a license is a large number of people having wives, girlfriends, etc. apply and they hunt. Only after they have a deer down do they go home, get the wife and go after the deer. This is getting to be a common practice. Many other states require a valid big-game license to be in the national forest during a deer season with a firearm. Lets face it, The number of coyote hunters in the black hills in November is so few, and they could wait till Dec. I think this would help a lot in S.D. I have only been successful at drawing a tag every other year and have several friends, whose wives apply for them that hunt almost every year. These people are stealing opportunity from me. I am not complaining about the limited draw. It is GREAT! I am just suggesting ways to make it better.

Thanks for listening  
Deer Hunter

PS IF I can be of help call me. I love the Black Hills And deer hunting with around 38 years hunting deer in SD.

---

I just filled out my 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey ID: 0112 and decided to use the invitation to comment via email. I have just a couple of feelings I want to convey.

1. I have been hunting the Hills with my sons and friends for about 25 years now. When GFP first implemented the practice of applying for Black Hills buck licenses I thought that it would decrease my chances to hunt with them, but the amount of licenses given out seems to be sufficient that drawing success is still good. I don't necessarily think that fewer hunters increases the quality of the bucks, but I do feel that restricting the licenses to having to be drawn has reduced the amount of poaching by locals who could previously "shoot and buy" licenses. In my opinion "buy and shoot" has increased the quality of buck hunting in the Black Hills.
2. The mountain lion population seem high in the Hills as well as spreading across the state. Two years ago in the Hills I saw one sign of a mountain lion where I hunt (up high, just south of Deadwood). This year I saw one set of large prints in a rugged, rough section that I hunt around Elk Creek. A mile over I saw sign of a mother and two cubs and another loan lion of different sized prints. A mile from

that, each morning I saw fresh tracks near a stand I take. To me this seems excessive for mountain lion sign. This causes concern for me (perhaps not as educated on lions as I should be) about safety. It also causes concern about reduction of deer herd since I understand a lion will kill a deer a week on the average. I don't have an opinion about what GFP can do about it, but am glad you are keeping an eye on the situation.

3. GFP is doing a good job of providing good hunting experiences for the average South Dakota resident. Keep up the good work.

Thanks,

---

I feel that resident youth should get a tag each year. We have received a tag every other year since the new program started.

GF&P have done a great job in providing the hunter with a much larger trophy deer population.

Thank you



Dear Larry:

I received one of the surveys this year and would like to add these comments:  
I have hunted Black Hills Deer for about twenty years now and have never had difficulty filling my tag. The change in policy to lottery draw, limiting the number of tags and establishing a minimum limit on size of deer have had a very positive effect on the overall deer herd in the hills. Although I saw many fewer quality bucks this year, two of those I did see were exceptional (and smarter than me unfortunately). The overall number of deer I saw was pretty good but I did not witness near as strong a rut during the season as I have in the past. My experience would be to blame this on our warmer than usual weather.

I did hunt by myself this year and was lucky enough to see two mountain lions within about seventy yards of me in two different parts of the hills. At no time have I ever felt threatened or fearful of these magnificent animals. Several years ago I also witnessed a mountain lion actually make a kill on a deer in the hills. I do not view these lions as a particular threat to people, livestock or competition for game animals. Quite frankly, given the enormous number of turkeys in the hills, I would think the presence of more lions and coyotes would be a good thing. It does concern me that people are building in nearly every nook and cranny of the hills now and invading the domains of not only deer but all other wildlife as well. It would seem to me that encounters with lions are much more likely if for this reason only. It would seem to me that if people are going to build like they are in the hills, increased encounters are going to be more likely. I have every year of my hunting life in the hills, run into clear sign of the big cats. I am not convinced that increased sightings or encounters represent so much an increase in numbers as much as an encroachment on their natural environment.

My last comment is simply an observation. In addition to good numbers of deer and huge numbers of turkey in the hills in recent years, I have also had more elk and mountain goat encounters in recent years as well. I, for one, appreciate the difficult task you all have in managing our wildlife in the face of so many competing interests and opinions and think the GFP is doing a pretty good job overall.

Sincerely,

---

First, let me thank you for providing a forum for which to express my comments.

I am a first-time deer hunter. I am a biologist with an advanced degree in natural resources and have spent countless hours doing research on private and public lands in South Dakota and other western states. I love the outdoors and have backpacked 100s of miles in my lifetime, camped and hiked in the back-countries of Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska among other places. I have a good understanding of wildlife habits and habitat, and was very much looking forward to deer hunting this fall. I have hunted turkeys in the Black Hills in previous years, but never deer. I say all of this to indicate that I have spent considerable amounts of time in the back-country in all times of year, in places where there is abundant wildlife, both game and non-game. When I went deer hunting in the Black Hills this fall, I was extremely surprised and disgusted with the number of gun shots I heard. I had a northern Hills unit tag, and the 4 days I spent hunting, there was never more than 10 consecutive minutes without the sound of gun shot. Many times the shots were fired in a semi-automatic fashion. Knowing that these bullets could be shotgun slugs up to large calibers such as .308 was very frightening. It was even more frightening the day 2 hunters took an extremely long shot at 2 does from a GPA, across private land into a housing area. These bullets went not so far over my head.

Additionally, I had done my scouting previous to the season opening, and there wasn't a deer anywhere to be seen in the areas I had regularly seen them before the season started. The hunting pressure, the constant gunfire, and ATV use had pushed the deer around much more than I had anticipated.

All in all, I was very disgusted at the numbers and ethics of hunters I encountered. If the GF&P sees the need to issue so many deer tags to control the herd, the season should be broken into several shorter time periods where fewer tags are issued at one time, thereby limiting the number of guns out there at any one time. Until some action is taken to reduce the numbers of hunters in the woods at the same time, I will never hunt Black Hills deer again. I think as a resident of South Dakota, I should be able to take advantage of the natural resources without fearing for my life. I enjoy the outdoors and hunting and it is clear to me that deer hunting is so over crowded that one can not enjoy the outdoors and the hunt when the over-riding concern is being shot by some other person.

Rapid City, SD

---

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to the Black Hills deer survey. I do have some concerns about how the season is run.

First, if the idea behind the Black Hills doe season is to reduce their numbers to a manageable level; why not let that season run longer than 10 days? It always seems to be set where it conflicts with the start of the West River season. I haven't seen that many hunters out there on any given day, so I don't think there would be a problem with too many hunters if the doe season ran longer. I'm the type of hunter who wouldn't pass up a trophy buck but I really just want to fill my tag. One important key to producing quality bucks is thinning out does, especially since there's a limited food supply in the Hills. Therefore, if the state biologists decide how many does should be killed, and I hope someone familiar the Hills habitat is doing that, let there be enough time to get it done.

I don't think the Black Hills really needs a mountain lion population. I strongly believe they eat too many deer, and when they get used to living close to humans they are potentially dangerous. With so many populated areas throughout the Hills, their numbers need to be controlled. In short, the only predators hunting Hills deer should be two-legged.

I do hope GFP establishes a mountain lion season in 2005, regardless of the threat of lawsuits by assorted environmental groups. Lion hunting is a specialized operation and one needs dogs trained for that purpose. Outfitters need time to respond and get set up. I think a season would be a good moneymaker for the local area and would help lower the threat of a lion-human confrontation where someone gets hurt or killed. I remember when California stopped its lion season in the 1990's. One immediate result was several dead joggers. I don't want that to happen here. Now is the time to start a season before a child gets attacked. Should this happen, the state won't be able to take the heat or deal with the resultant lawsuits. Environmental groups are a mere irritant compared to human injuries or fatalities.

So far, Conservation Officers have responded in good time to kill problem lions but I don't think that's the long-term solution.

Sincerely,

---

Dear Sir:

The Black Hills Buck Only Season should be open to anyone but the buck should be a 4 point or better. This would allow the smaller bucks to mature but would increase the revenue. If you need to reduce the deer herd population have those licenses as your drawing for doe or any deer.

Also question 13 e should be separated as they are two different concepts.

---

Larry,

I have not hunted in the Black Hills since a year or two before the lottery license system started. I gave up trying to get deer in the hills. I shot probably 3 bucks in about 17 years of hunting the Black Hills. None of which were anything very big. Some years I was lucky if I even saw a buck bigger than a 2 point. I began seeing more and more bucks the last few years and decided to apply for a license this year. I was very surprised at the number of bucks I saw in the first couple days. I decided that I could wait and look at as many deer as I could before shooting one. I passed on probably 50 legal bucks. I saw many spikes also. I finally shot the biggest buck I have ever shot anywhere on 11-26-04. It wasn't even the biggest buck I saw during the season although the two bigger bucks were on some private land that I was not hunting. I saw them from a public road. In previous years I never felt like I was hunting alone. It seemed like there was another hunter around every tree. This year I would see other hunters, but if I wanted to get away from them I could. Overall, I think this was probably the best year of deer hunting I have ever had. I never thought that would come from hunting with a Black Hills deer tag. I guess if there was one comment that could be negative it would be that the two point or better should be a three point or better. Fork horn muleys should not be allowed to be shot. I saw more mule deer this year then I ever have in the hills. Often the two points were just standing on the roads with the does. It is a shame that these deer are legal to shoot. It is too easy.

Thank you  
Survey ID 0543

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**Appendix E-1. Resident first drawing history for 2004 Black Hills deer season.**

Unit	Total Available	Draw Type	Number of Applications	Available Licenses	Application Over Fill	Licenses Issued	Licenses Left Over
400A52	0	Landowner <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
	5,000	Preference	2,641	5,000	0	2,641	2,359
	5,000	All First	6,953	2,359	4,594	2,359	0
	5,000	All Second	240	0	240	0	0
401A01	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	100	Preference	60	100	0	60	40
	100	All First	168	40	128	40	0
	100	All Second	266	0	266	0	0
401A06	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	400	Preference	1	400	0	1	399
	400	All First	19	399	0	19	380
	400	All Second	121	380	0	121	259
402A01	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	100	Preference	262	100	162	100	0
	100	All First	457	0	457	0	0
	100	All Second	584	0	584	0	0
402A06	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	300	Preference	27	300	0	27	273
	300	All First	122	273	0	122	151
	300	All Second	306	151	155	151	0
403A01	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	100	Preference	89	100	0	89	11
	100	All First	185	11	174	11	0
	100	All Second	298	0	298	0	0
403A06	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	350	Preference	7	350	0	7	343
	350	All First	44	343	0	44	299
	350	All Second	144	299	0	144	155
404A01	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	100	Preference	84	100	0	84	16
	100	All First	140	16	124	16	0
	100	All Second	256	0	256	0	0
404A06	0	Landowner	0	0	0	0	0
	250	Preference	4	250	0	4	246
	250	All First	35	246	0	35	211
	250	All Second	98	211	0	98	113

<sup>1</sup>Landowner licenses were not available for 2004.

**Appendix E-2.** Nonresident first drawing history for 2004 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total Available</b>	<b>Draw Type</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Available Licenses</b>	<b>Applications Over Fill</b>	<b>Licenses Issued</b>	<b>Licenses Left Over</b>
<b>400A52</b>	400	Preference	490	400	90	400	0
	400	All First	1,016	0	1,016	0	0
	400	All Second	11	0	11	0	0
<b>401A01</b>	8	Preference	8	8	0	8	0
	8	All First	8	0	8	0	0
	8	All Second	53	0	53	0	0
<b>401A06</b>	32	Preference	0	32	0	0	32
	32	All First	5	32	0	5	27
	32	All Second	17	27	0	17	10
<b>402A01</b>	8	Preference	16	8	8	8	0
	8	All First	20	0	20	0	0
	8	All Second	93	0	93	0	0
<b>402A06</b>	24	Preference	2	24	0	2	22
	24	All First	13	22	0	13	9
	24	All Second	30	9	21	9	0
<b>403A01</b>	8	Preference	3	8	0	3	5
	8	All First	22	5	17	5	0
	8	All Second	17	0	17	0	0
<b>403A06</b>	28	Preference	1	28	0	1	27
	28	All First	6	27	0	6	21
	28	All Second	9	21	0	9	12
<b>404A01</b>	8	Preference	10	8	2	8	0
	8	All First	17	0	17	0	0
	8	All Second	50	0	50	0	0
<b>404A06</b>	20	Preference	0	20	0	0	20
	20	All First	4	20	0	4	16
	20	All Second	11	16	0	11	5

**Appendix E-3.** Resident and nonresident second drawing history for 2004 Black Hills deer season.

<b>RESIDENTS</b>							
<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total Available</b>	<b>Draw Type</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Available Licenses</b>	<b>Applications Over Fill</b>	<b>Licenses Issued</b>	<b>Licenses Left Over</b>
<b>401A06</b>	400	All First	234	260	0	234	26
	400	All Second	67	26	41	26	0
<b>403A06</b>	350	All First	378	156	222	156	0
	350	All Second	13	0	13	0	0
<b>404A06</b>	250	All First	185	115	70	115	0
	250	All Second	50	0	50	0	0
<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>							
<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total Available</b>	<b>Draw Type</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Available Licenses</b>	<b>Applications Over Fill</b>	<b>Licenses Issued</b>	<b>Licenses Left Over</b>
<b>401A06</b>	32	All First	8	10	0	8	2
	32	All Second	2	2	0	2	0
<b>403A06</b>	28	All First	11	12	0	11	1
	28	All Second	3	1	2	1	0
<b>404A06</b>	20	All First	10	5	5	5	0
	20	All Second	0	0	0	0	0

Does not include the small number of applications for units that did not have licenses available for the second draw.

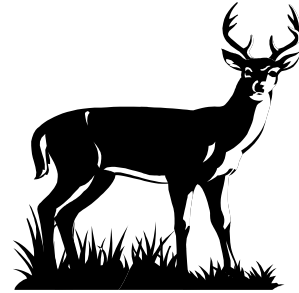


**Appendix F**  
**Report Sent to Survey Participants**  
**2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**  
(This report was actually sent to ALL 2004 licensed Black Hills deer hunters.)





**Department of Game, Fish and Parks**  
Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182



## **Report to Survey Participants** **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**



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May 2004

Dear Black Hills Deer Hunter,

This is a summary report of the 2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey. We sincerely thank all of you who participated by completing and returning your booklet questionnaire. One-third of the 2004 Black Hills deer hunters were selected to participate in this year's survey. A total of 2,078 questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 87.5%. I am very pleased with such an excellent response as it demonstrates the importance and value of Black Hills deer hunting and the willingness of our hunters to take an active role in its management efforts. Each year we gain a better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters which will help us better manage the Black Hills deer herd.

This survey represents the tenth consecutive year of studying Black Hills deer hunters, and the ninth year following the change in the management of the Black Hills deer herd. A major objective of these surveys are to track satisfaction and to identify other hunter-related parameters to evaluate the Black Hills deer season (i.e., provide an evaluation of each year's deer season from the hunters' perspective). A secondary purpose of these surveys are to gain an overall better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters and Black Hills deer hunting. The 2004 special focus area included attitudes related to mountain lions in South Dakota.



## **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

*Larry Gigliotti*

The past Black Hills deer season (2004) was a very successful and positive deer hunting experience from the hunters' perspective for most hunters. Deer hunters reported seeing more deer, more bucks, more quality bucks and hunters' evaluation of these parameters were higher. In addition, harvest success was high and hunter crowding was not a problem. All this led to a high satisfaction level among this year's Black Hills deer hunters. All these parameters have been slowly improving since the change in deer management for the Black Hills.

### **Results**

Both resident and nonresident hunter satisfaction levels have risen overall since the change in management in 1996 (1995–2004) (Figures 1 and 2). Nonresidents tend to be more satisfied with their deer hunting experience compared to resident hunters.

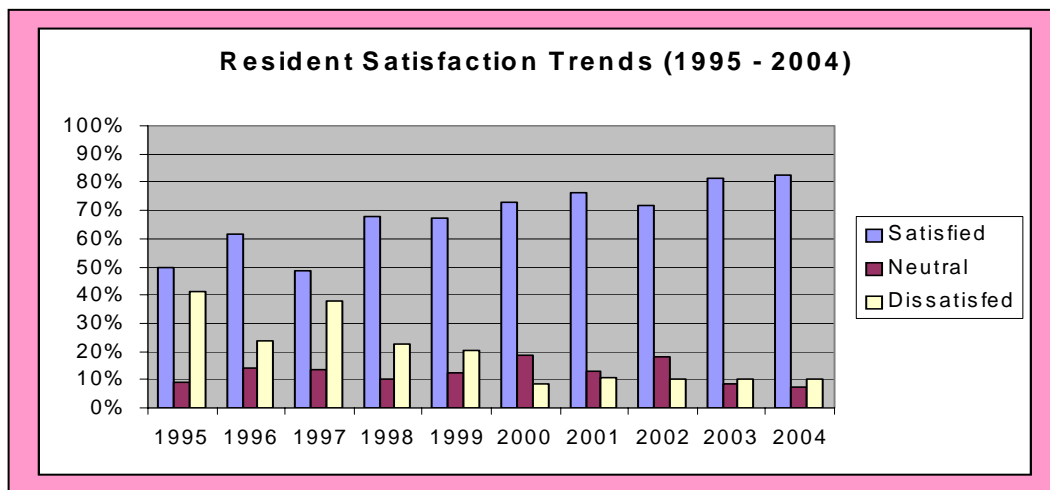


Figure 1. Satisfaction trends for resident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2004).

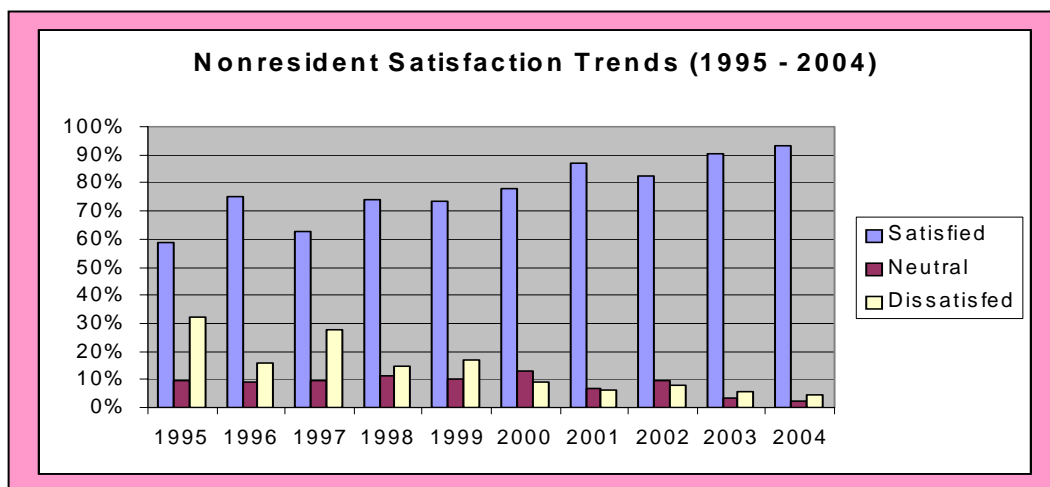


Figure 2. Satisfaction trends for nonresident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2004).

The number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen by hunters has risen since measurements began in 1998 (Table 1). Also, hunters' evaluations of these parameters have also increased since measurement began in 1997 (Figure 3). These evaluations were rated on a 9-point scale of 1 (very few) to 5 (average) to 9 (lots/exceptional).

Table 1. About how many deer, bucks and quality bucks did you see during your total Black Hills deer hunt?

Hunter Reported:	Year						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mean Total Deer Seen	42.4	43.5	77.5	54.6	69.3	80.0	77.4
Mean Total Bucks Seen	3.6	4.6	7.6	7.2	7.9	10.0	10.9
Mean Total Quality Bucks Seen	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.1

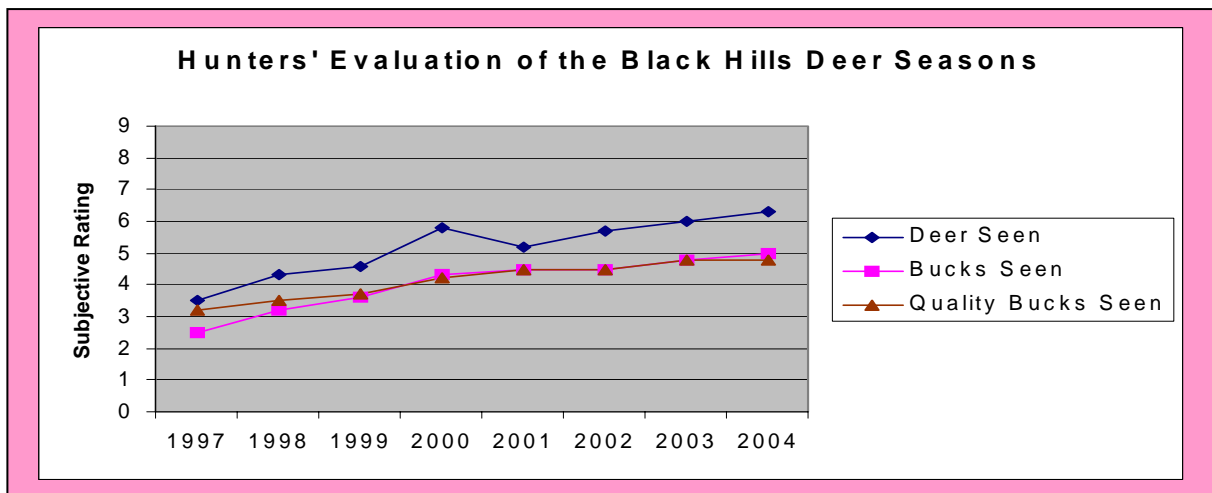


Figure 3. Hunters evaluation of the number of deer seen, number of bucks seen and the quality of bucks seen, rated on a scale of 1 to 9 (1997– 2004).

The management change has resulted in an improvement (for most hunters) in terms of crowding. In 2004, 67% of the Black Hills deer hunters rated the hunting conditions in terms of the number of other hunters as “just right” and only 2% felt “very crowded” (Table 2). This survey also provided evidence that having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip is more important for most hunters to overall satisfaction than

getting a deer. Crowding was about 18% more important to hunters' satisfaction than harvest success for residents and about 17% for nonresidents.

Table 2. Comparison of the hunters' evaluation of crowding during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 – 2004.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	7.0%	7.3%	10.0%	6.2%
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	51.2%	58.8%	66.3%	60.4%
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	23.4%	21.5%	15.4%	21.8%
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	11.4%	9.9%	6.5%	9.0%
<b>Very Crowded</b>	7.0%	2.5%	1.9%	2.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,557	354	1,699	1,634
<b>Total License Sales</b>	12,362	8,262	7,830	7,921

Table 2-Continued.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	9.8%	9.2%	7.5%	6.7%
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	64.8%	66.1%	64.9%	67.1%
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	17.7%	17.5%	18.8%	18.4%
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	6.0%	5.3%	7.0%	5.6%
<b>Very Crowded</b>	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%	2.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,641	1,643	1,710	1,841
<b>Total License Sales</b>	6,707	6,449	6,438	7,346

On average from 1997 to 2004, hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen increased 35%, evaluation of the number of bucks seen increased 31%, and evaluation of the number of quality bucks seen increased 28% (Figure 3). Another parameter that has steadily increased since the deer management change is harvested antler size (Table 3).

Table 3. Antler size (Eastern count) trends for the Black Hills deer season (96–04).

<b>Year</b>	<b>Whitetail Buck</b>		<b>Mule Deer Buck</b>	
	<b>Ave. Total Points</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Ave. Total Points</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>
<b>1996</b>	6.7	362	4.7	75
<b>1997</b>	6.7	318	5.1	100
<b>1998</b>	7.0	744	5.3	251
<b>1999</b>	7.0	464	5.5	188
<b>2000</b>	7.5	626	5.8	137
<b>2001</b>	7.8	646	5.9	218

<b>2002</b>	7.9	665	6.0	192
<b>2003</b>	8.1	757	5.9	212
<b>2004</b>	8.1	736	5.8	246

Hunters with the buck-only license (30-day season) had a 65% success rate and hunters with the 10-day, any-deer/antlerless whitetail license had an 77% success rate (does not include the 7% of licensed hunters that did not hunt during the 2004 Black Hills deer season). Hunter success has been improving over the past seven years (Table 4).

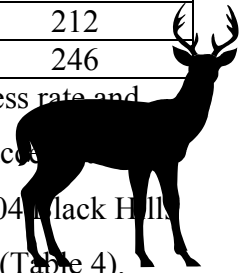


Table 4. Overall harvest success by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2004).

Season	Harvest Success Rate <sup>1</sup>						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>30-Day</b>	43.7%	43.8%	48.9%	57.9%	56.2%	60.9%	65.1%
<b>10-Day</b>	55.3%	55.7%	66.0%	69.0%	71.7%	80.2%	77.2%

<sup>1</sup>Success rate does not include hunters that did not hunt

Nature enjoyment, social aspects and excitement were the top three main motivations for liking Black Hills deer hunting (Table 5).

Table 5. Main reason for 2004 Black Hills deer hunting– *Overall, which statement best describes your top reason for why you like Black Hills deer hunting?*

TOP REASON	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area. <b>(Nature)</b>	28.9%	34.4%	29.3%
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family. <b>(Social)</b>	27.2%	35.6%	27.9%
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc. <b>(Excitement)</b>	18.7%	10.0%	18.0%
To bring meat home for food. <b>(Meat)</b>	7.7%	2.5%	7.3%
For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer & dealing with the elements <b>(Challenge)</b>	6.7%	4.4%	6.5%
To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment. <b>(Trophy)</b>	5.0%	6.9%	5.2%
To have <u>additional</u> deer hunting opportunities <b>(Hunting Opportunity)</b>	2.9%	4.4%	3.1%

To spend time alone in the woods. ( <b>Solitude</b> )	2.8%	1.9%	2.7%
NUMBER	1,833	160	1,993

### **Some Additional Facts from the 2004 Survey:**

- Residents harvested 91.8% of the total deer taken and nonresidents harvested 8.2%.
- Residents averaged 13.9 years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and nonresidents averaged 9.1 years.
- Residents and nonresidents had similar “harvest” attitudes related to Black Hills deer hunting. Most Black Hills deer hunters (85%) can be satisfied even if they do not kill a deer. However, killing a deer was important to over half (54%) of the Black Hills deer hunters. Many of the Black Hills deer hunters (32%) are only interested in buck hunting and many Black Hills deer hunters (44%) will only shoot a big buck (i.e., passing up legal bucks that do not measure up to their standards).

## **Mountain Lions in South Dakota**

Comments from the 2003 Black Hills deer hunter survey suggested that mountain lions were a topic on many hunters' minds. Therefore the 2004 survey included 3 pages of questions measuring hunters' attitudes towards mountain lions in South Dakota. Some results are summarized in this report.



Resident and nonresident 2004 Black Hills deer hunters were relatively similar in their attitudes towards a mountain lion season. About 87% of the Black Hills deer hunters would support a mountain lion season if the state acquired data that the mountain lion population was healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest. This level of support for a mountain lion season was slightly higher than that measured for the general public in South Dakota in 2002 (Table 6).

Table 6. Comparing attitudes from the general public sample (2002) with the sample of resident Black Hills deer hunters (2004) – I would support a mountain lion season if the state acquires data that the mountain lion population is healthy and could sustain a prescribed level of harvest.

Attitude – Support for a mountain lion season ...	General Public (2002)		Black Hills Deer Hunters (2004)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent

<b>AGREE</b>	775	71.7%	1,610	87.2%
<b>NEUTRAL / NO OPINION</b>	154	14.2%	130	7.0%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	152	14.1%	106	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	1,081	100%	1,846	100%

## **Response to Some Common Questions**

### **2004 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

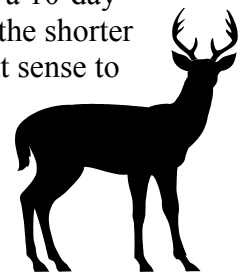
**Larry Gigliotti**  
**South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks**

***Question: Why not make the point-restriction 3-points or 4-points?***

Point restrictions have very little benefit, almost ALL benefits come from reduced hunting pressure. The 2-point restriction could be removed with almost no impact. The 2-point restriction was implemented because hunters requested it, however it was decided that a 3-point or 4-point restriction would lead to too many accidental shooting of bucks with insufficient points. It is relatively easy to distinguish a spike from a deer with branched antlers. It is much more difficult to count the actual number of points, especially on a running deer. There are just too many opportunities for hunters to see a nice rack but not be able to count actual number of points. Large racks can be deceiving as a hunter may assume that the rack also has brow-tings, etc., and end up shooting a very respectable deer with an illegal point count. Also, many Black Hills deer have small racks but with numerous points making it is very difficult to get an accurate point count. Viewed from the side, points from one antler-side may blend in with the opposite side giving a false count. Point-restrictions are not practical for the Black Hills. The benefits achieved from the management change resulted from a decrease in overall hunting pressure on the bucks.

***Question: Why were the any-deer licenses permitted to shoot spikes?***

The point restriction actually does very little in saving bucks. Almost ALL benefits are due to reduced hunting pressure, not the 2-point restriction. Under the current regulations very few spikes are killed (less than 1% of the bucks harvested in 2004 were spikes). The goal was to allow more of the younger bucks to mature. That goal is achieved under the current regulations. Remember that hunters with any-deer licenses only have a 10-day season. Permitting them to shoot a spike is compensation for hunting during the shorter season (and since very few hunters shoot spikes it does not make management sense to mandate a 2-point restriction for the 10-day season).



***Question: Will there be a mountain lion season?***

Game, Fish and Parks is considering having a mountain lion season for 2005 and is currently asking for input from the public. A final decision will be made this summer. Information is available on our web page at:

**<http://www.sdgfp.info/Wildlife/MountainLions/MtLionIndex.htm>**

***Question: Why were nonresidents allowed to get licenses when some residents did not get a license?***

When the management changed from unlimited licenses (i.e., anyone could buy a Black Hills deer license) to limited licenses the 8% rule was applied to this season. The general restriction on limited deer licenses is that 8% of the licenses will be made available for nonresidents. Before the change in deer management, nonresidents were about 11-12% of the total hunters, so the 8% allotment was a great reduction in nonresident hunters. By federal law, South Dakota must provide “reasonable” access to hunting opportunities for nonresidents (Interstate Commerce Regulations). The 8% allotment for nonresidents has a long history of acceptance in South Dakota and would likely be considered as “reasonable” if tested in court. The benefits achieved from the management change (an improvement in the hunting experience) was achieved through the sacrifice of accepting a system where not everyone gets a license every year. For this process to be fair, everyone must accept the consequences (not getting a license) of the management plan.

***Question: When will the management change bring back the deer herd so that licenses will no longer be limited?***

This seems to be a common misconception that the change in deer management was designed to build up the deer herd. The management plan slightly altered the doe-buck ratio but was not designed to increase the overall size of the herd. The management strategy was to provide a better match between the deer population and hunting pressure to provide for an improved quality experience. This was achieved by increasing the number and size of the bucks encountered by hunters and reduced crowding. By all measures this objective has been achieved.

In general, many comments were received from hunters asking for changes that would benefit a special group of hunters at the expense of others, e.g., giving all young hunters a license, giving all senior hunters a license, giving all the licenses to residents only, allocating more licenses to nonresident hunters for economic reasons, giving preference to Black Hills residents, etc. and etc. These comments demonstrate the difficulty of managing a limited, public resource (Black Hills deer hunting) for the benefit of all interests. Overall, the comments indicate a general positive satisfaction with the current system. All survey results and comments received are compiled in the final report and made available to decision-makers (GFP staff and Commissioners) and the public.

For a complete copy of these survey results, please send your name and address to:

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or send your name and address to me by e-mail: [larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us)





## **Appendix G** **BLACK HILLS DEER**

There were 7,346 single tag licenses issued for the 2004 Black Hills Deer season (6,810 resident, 536 nonresident).

A random sample of 2,414 hunters was taken (33% of license holders) and there were 2,150 responses for an 89.1% return rate. Approximately 8.8% of responding hunters used the Internet to submit their responses.

The traditional Black Hills Buck season ran the usual month of November, a total of 30 days. The special any-deer and antlerless whitetail seasons ran from November 10-19, a total of 10 days. Those responding reported hunting an average of 4.14 days that projected to 25,816 recreation days for the season. Of those responding, 6.3% stated they did not hunt at all during the season (12% of type 06, 4% of type 01, 4% of type 52).

The mean satisfaction score for all combined units was 2.54. The satisfaction scale ranged from 1 = "very satisfied" to 7 = "very dissatisfied".

The harvest projection for the Black Hills Deer season was 4,589 deer (2,802 whitetail bucks, 946 whitetail does, 783 mule deer bucks, 58 mule deer does). The overall season harvest success rate was 62%.

Harvest summaries for the 1997-2004 Black Hills Deer seasons.

YEAR	Licenses Sold		Bucks		Harvest Does		Total	Success	Avg Days Hunted	Avg Satis
	Resident	Nonres	WT	Mule	WT	Mule				
1997	10,780	1,044	2,376	699	1,339	197	4,611	39%	4.76	3.26
1998	7,673	612	2,169	564	1,043	132	3,908	47%	4.24	3.28
1999	7,271	578	2,032	620	744	140	3,536	45%	4.54	3.21
2000	7,350	571	2,603	500	782	84	3,969	50%	3.89	2.77
2001	6,211	496	2,419	859	313	71	3,662	55%	4.14	2.80
2002	5,980	474	2,365	618	346	40	3,369	52%	4.59	2.75
2003	5,965	473	2,427	694	402	53	3,576	56%	4.01	2.58
2004	6,810	536	2,802	783	946	58	4,589	62%	4.14	2.54

### **2004 Black Hills Deer Harvest Projections**

*Last Revised: 16 Feb 05*

East Revised: 10/1/2020																
Unit/Type	Licenses								Harvest Projections						Mean Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted
	Resident				Nonresident								Total Deer			
	Appl. 1st				Appl. 1st				Whitetail		Mule Deer					
	Choice *	Avail.	Sold		Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	Harvested		
400A-52	9,594	5,000	5,089		1,416	400	400	89%	61%	2,603	22	727	0	3,352	2.56	4.83
401A-01	228	100	105		16	8	8	90%	75%	37	15	15	18	85	2.63	3.66
401A-06	20	400	400		5	32	32	88%	51%	9	209	0	3	221	2.71	2.95
402A-01	557	100	104		28	8	8	91%	79%	30	29	13	17	89	2.66	3.62
402A-06	149	300	300		15	24	24	89%	66%	12	203	0	0	215	2.34	2.37
403A-01	274	100	107		25	8	8	90%	78%	40	35	9	6	90	2.61	3.62
403A-06	51	350	350		7	28	28	88%	68%	16	241	0	0	257	2.54	3.62
404A-01	224	100	104		25	8	8	91%	79%	40	18	19	12	89	2.37	3.89
404A-06	39	250	251		4	20	20	90%	70%	15	174	0	2	191	2.31	2.66
	11,136	6,700	6,810		1,541	536	536	89.1%	62%	2,802	946	783	58	4,589	2.54	4.14

The response rate for all units combined is: **89.1%**

Satisfaction scale of 1=very satisfied to 7=very dissatisfied.

# Harvest projections were developed for units where response rate was less than 85% and may not be within +/- 15% of the sample statistic.

\* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that season as 1st choice.

## 2004 Black Hills Buck Harvest Distribution

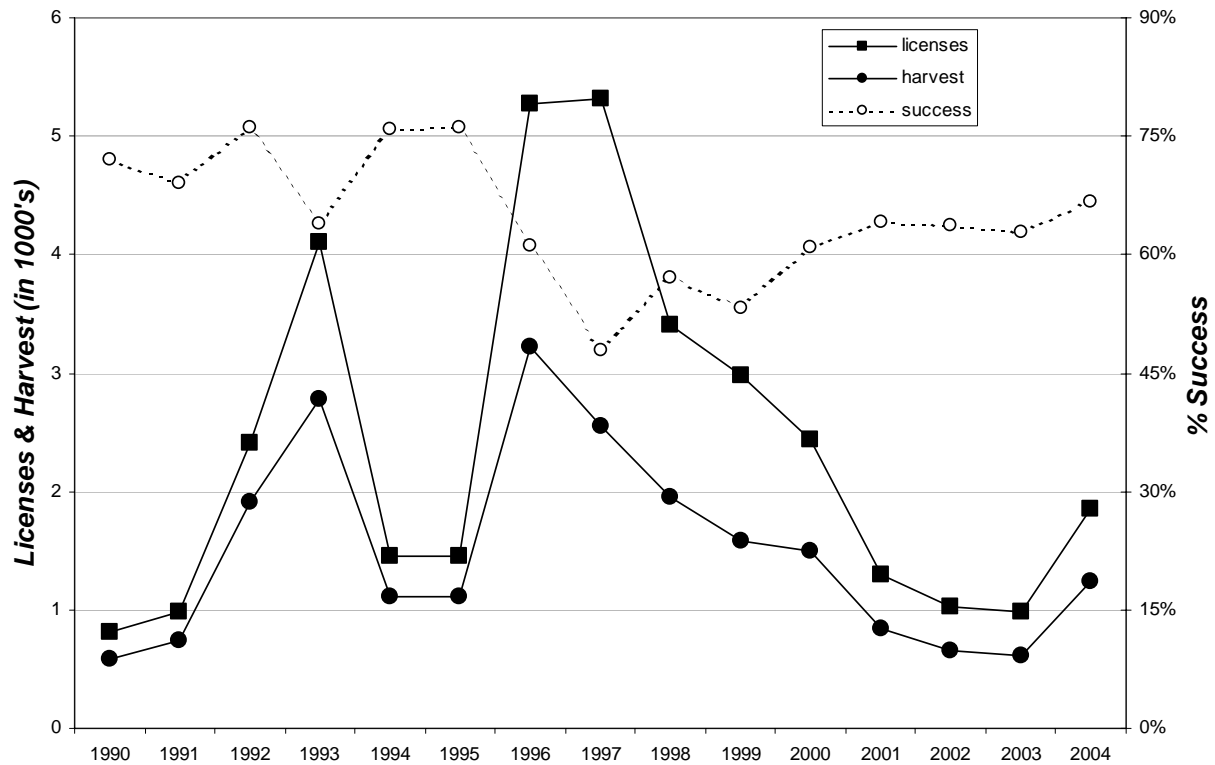
Unit Where Kill Was Reported	Reported Buck Harvest			Unit Percent of Harvest by Species		Projected Buck Harvest		
	Whitetail	Mule Deer	Total	Whitetail	Mule Deer	Whitetail	Mule Deer	Total
Unknown	74	23	97	12.8%	14.4%	333	105	438
401	72	25	97	12.5%	15.6%	325	113	438
402	232	73	305	40.3%	45.6%	1,049	332	1,381
403	117	13	130	20.3%	8.1%	528	59	587
404	81	26	107	14.1%	16.3%	367	119	486

*Last Revised: 16 Feb 05*

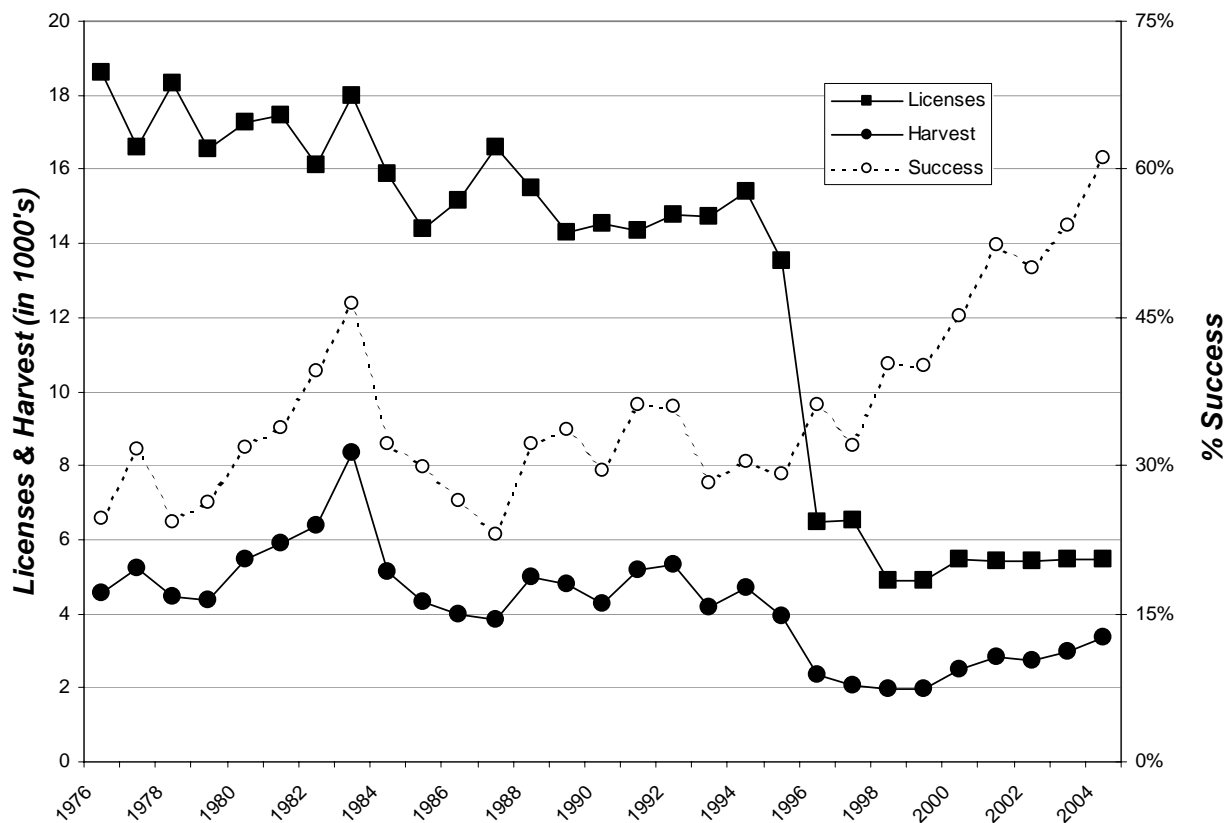
## 2004 Black Hills Deer - Distribution of Antler Points by Species and Unit Where Harvested

<i>Last Revised: 16 Feb 05</i>				Highest Single Antler Point Count						
Total	License Unit	Harvest Location		0	1	2	3	4	5	6+
<b>MULE</b>	23	400A	UNK	0	0	10	8	3	1	1
	25	400A	401	0	0	7	7	3	8	0
	73	400A	402	0	0	37	21	11	4	0
	13	400A	403	0	0	7	0	3	3	0
	26	400A	404	0	0	12	1	9	4	0
<b>DEER</b>	12	401A	401	0	4	5	1	2	0	0
	7	402A	402	0	1	3	1	2	0	0
	7	403A	403	0	1	3	2	1	0	0
	15	404A	404	2	1	7	2	3	0	0
	160	Total Mule 400A		0	0	73	37	29	20	1
41 Total Mule Other Units				2	7	18	6	8	0	0
Total	License Unit	Harvest Location		0	1	2	3	4	5	6+
<b>WHITETAIL</b>	74	400A	UNK	0	0	0	6	46	16	6
	72	400A	401	0	0	1	7	41	20	3
	232	400A	402	0	0	10	30	117	57	18
	117	400A	403	0	0	2	13	57	35	10
	81	400A	404	0	0	5	10	37	25	4
	33	401A	401	3	5	1	3	13	8	0
	30	402A	402	6	4	2	3	13	2	0
	38	403A	403	5	4	2	6	16	5	0
	39	404A	404	4	7	2	8	12	5	1
	576	Total WT 400A		0	0	18	66	298	153	41
140 Total WT Other Units				18	20	7	20	54	20	1
736 All 400A				0	0	91	103	327	173	42
181 All Other Units				20	27	25	26	62	20	1

## Black Hills Special Deer 1990-2004



## Black Hills Buck Deer 1976-2004



<b>2004 Black Hills Buck (Type 52) Harvest by Date</b>					
<i>Last Revised: 16 Feb 05</i>					
Date	Frequency	Percent	Date	Frequency	Percent
UNK	29	3.9%	<b>16-Nov</b>	11	1.5%
<b>1-Nov</b>	41	5.5%	17-Nov	16	2.1%
<b>2-Nov</b>	33	4.4%	18-Nov	18	2.4%
3-Nov	27	3.6%	19-Nov	20	2.7%
4-Nov	17	2.3%	20-Nov	35	4.7%
5-Nov	24	3.2%	21-Nov	29	3.9%
6-Nov	47	6.3%	<b>22-Nov</b>	15	2.0%
7-Nov	23	3.1%	<b>23-Nov</b>	15	2.0%
<b>8-Nov</b>	14	1.9%	24-Nov	24	3.2%
<b>9-Nov</b>	9	1.2%	25-Nov	26	3.5%
10-Nov	19	2.5%	26-Nov	29	3.9%
11-Nov	26	3.5%	27-Nov	27	3.6%
12-Nov	28	3.7%	28-Nov	28	3.7%
13-Nov	41	5.5%	<b>29-Nov</b>	19	2.5%
14-Nov	20	2.7%	<b>30-Nov</b>	15	2.0%
<b>15-Nov</b>	22	2.9%	<b>Total Rpt'd</b>	<b>747</b>	

<b>2004 Black Hills Deer (Type 01) Harvest by Date</b>					
Date	Frequency	Percent	Date	Frequency	Percent
UNK	29	10.3%	<b>15-Nov</b>	8	2.8%
10-Nov	34	12.1%	<b>16-Nov</b>	11	3.9%
11-Nov	41	14.6%	17-Nov	9	3.2%
12-Nov	48	17.1%	18-Nov	12	4.3%
13-Nov	55	19.6%	19-Nov	15	5.3%
14-Nov	27	9.6%	<b>Total Rpt'd</b>	<b>281</b>	

<b>2004 Black Hills Deer (Type 06) Harvest by Date</b>					
Date	Frequency	Percent	Date	Frequency	Percent
UNK	52	15.9%	<b>15-Nov</b>	25	7.6%
10-Nov	32	9.8%	<b>16-Nov</b>	10	3.0%
11-Nov	53	16.2%	17-Nov	12	3.7%
12-Nov	57	17.4%	18-Nov	18	5.5%
13-Nov	45	13.7%	19-Nov	18	5.5%
14-Nov	31	9.5%	<b>Total Rpt'd</b>	<b>328</b>	